

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW



# 2016 PARKS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

EXPANDING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN DETROIT NEIGHBORHOODS



## CITY OF DETROIT GENERAL SERVICES AND DETROIT RECREATION DEPARTMENTS

### PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

ALICIA BRADFORD

Director, Detroit Parks and Recreation Department (DPRD)

Project Executive

VINCENT ANWUNAH

AICP General Manager

Project Manager

MEAGAN ELLIOTT

Urban Planner, GSD

MICHAEL JACOBS

Landscape Designer, GSD

INGRID WHITE

Program Manager, Detroit Future City

BRAD DICK

Director, General Services Department (GSD)

Project Coordinator

TIM KARL

Chief Landscape Architect

Project Data Specialist

JULIANA FULTON

Urban Planner, GSD, National Parks Service

FARHAT CHAUDRY

Landscape Designer, GSD

### ADVISORY ASSISTANCE

JED HOWBERT

Executive Director, Jobs and Economy Team

CARRIE LEWARD-MONROE, GREGORY HOLMAN, ROBERT LINN

Detroit Land Bank Authority

DIANA FLORA, NOAH URBAN

Data Driven Detroit

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 2016 PARKS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

	INTRODUCTION FROM DIRECTOR ALICIA BRADFORD .....	1
	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	2-5
I	THE CURRENT PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM.....	6-25
	The Context of Parks and Recreation in Detroit	
	What We Have Right Now	
II	VISION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN.....	26-47
	Public Meetings	
	Guiding Principles and Goals	
	Vision for the Plan	
III	PROGRAMS TO ACHIEVE THE PLAN'S VISION.....	48-101
	Improving all of our Parks	
	Strengthening Neighborhoods through Parks and Recreation	
	Community Open Spaces	
IV	IMPLEMENTATION GOALS.....	102-113
	Carrying out this Improvement Plan	
	Communication and Leadership	
	Funding Opportunities	
	Prioritizing Natural Parkland	
	Programming and Open Data for Residents	
	Uniform Park Access	
	APPENDICES:	
	A: Additional Documents for the Park Improvement Plan	
	B: Updated Individual Park Reports	
	C: Updated Individual Recreation Center Reports	
	D: Information on Parks organized by Program Type	

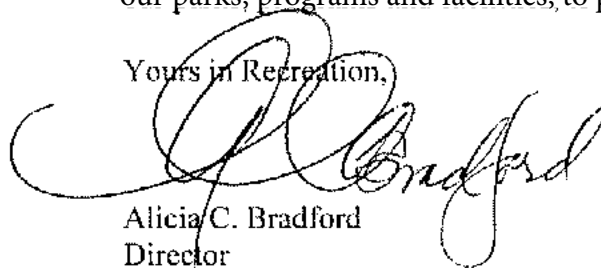
On behalf of the City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Department, we are pleased to provide a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan to guide our investment and improvement strategies for the next 10 years.

For almost a decade, Parks and Recreation's budget has been reduced significantly which impacted our ability to improve our parks and recreation facilities and cause our team to do more with less. Although all tasks could not be completed as envisioned, but by hard work and dedication of our team, we continued to make strides to improve the quality of life for the community and Metro Detroit. With the resurgence of Detroit, our leadership and the City's better financial health, we are re-engaged to touch every neighborhood.

This planning process has been in progress for nearly two years, to provide a city wide plan to strengthen all neighborhoods through specific programs and opportunities. Many thanks to our General Services Landscape Design Team for all their hard work in developing, compiling and framing the plan.

The completion of this plan involved the input from all areas, Parks & Recreation, General Services, Planning & Development and Detroit Land Bank, but most importantly the community. This plan will enable us to strategically focus on connecting communities with our parks, programs and facilities, to positively impact their health and wellness.

Yours in Recreation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alicia C. Bradford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Alicia C. Bradford  
Director



# 2016 PARKS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

## Expanding Recreation Opportunities in Detroit Neighborhoods

### WHY DETROIT'S PARKS AND RECREATION CENTERS MATTER

Public green space is critical to the strength of every neighborhood. Parks and recreation centers promote healthy lifestyles, crime reduction, community interaction, climate change management, and educational opportunities. In areas of growth, parks serve as catalysts for economic development. In areas of decline, parks can provide an essential stabilizing effect. Recreation centers are often the less visible counterpoints to parks, yet they play an equally important role in the quality of life for Detroit residents. Walk into any recreation center in Detroit and you will see countless youth sports programs in operation, senior citizens meeting with their morning walking groups, and all ages of residents using the space as a social center to escape the cold and find accessible options for healthy living. In short, the importance of Detroit's parks and recreation system cannot be overstated.

For that reason, in 2016 the City has committed an investment of almost \$12 million in Detroit's neighborhood parks. This comes after a nearly two-year planning process focused on prioritizing parks in every corner of the city where residents but especially youth and seniors live. The 2016 Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan is motivated by the goal of creating quality public space that is accessible to all Detroiters and can help to improve Detroit's efforts to become a more sustainable, healthy, and economically robust city.

## PROJECT HISTORY

Prior to this planning process, the most recent inventory of park and recreation properties was completed in 2006 and called the Strategic Master Plan. Since that time, Detroit's population as well as the inventory of our parks and recreation centers has changed significantly. In 2016, the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for 308 parks and 12 recreation centers or multi-use facilities.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan offers exciting approaches to help make the most of our large recreation system, with an emphasis on parks but also addressing recreation centers when applicable. These programs work in conjunction with other initiatives happening across Detroit among other City departments, organizations, and resident groups. All parks that have not seen improvements since 2006 are addressed in these programs, starting in the summer of 2016 with a strategy that improves 40 neighborhood parks. 56 parks will become Community Open Spaces that are publicly owned and maintained by the General Services Department, but eligible for residents and organizations to create partnerships for how to best use these spaces. Park that have vacant residential lots lining a side or many sides of the park will be eligible for the Gateway Parks Program where vacant lots become entryways into the park. The organization of the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan is as follows:

### **Chapter I: The Current Parks and Recreation System**

begins with a survey of current parkland and demographic changes since 2006.

### **Chapter II: Vision of the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan**

includes public input from residents on the parks and recreation centers related to park prioritization, amenity needs, and the question of how to incorporate newly acquired Detroit Public School sites into the parks system. Chapter II also incorporates broader thinking about the state of park planning in Detroit in 2016 to incorporate a variety of goals that the GSD and DPRD staff recognize as critical to the success of a strong parks and recreation system. Each of these goals is explained in detail in this chapter.

### **Chapter III: Programs to Achieve the Plan's Vision**

is the heart of the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan. It details a number of strategies to meet the goals outlined in Chapter II. New challenges have emerged as a result of the amount of underutilized and vacant land in Detroit continues to grow. This chapter offers a fresh take on these new needs with the following programs:

#### *Improving all our Parks*

This section focuses on the needs of 79 of Detroit's parks that have not been improved in the past ten years or that need additional investment because of their size or specific use. The capital improvements projected budget also takes into consideration 64 additional pieces of land that are discussed in the more specialized programs in the following section. Finally, this section includes an analysis of all recreation center capital improvement needs and their order of priority.

### *Strengthening Neighborhoods through Parks and Recreation*

This section focuses on the immediate investment in neighborhood parks. This includes 40 neighborhood parks ranging in size from 1 to 5.5 acres that are in areas with larger populations that have not received park improvements in the past ten years. By targeting these small parks up front, the goal is to strengthen areas that may be on the verge of losing population and further bolster strong neighborhoods around Detroit. This strategy is based on a pilot program of 13 parks improved recently with the same goals that have been extremely well-attended and celebrated among residents.

We also include a plan for how to address the large number of former Detroit Public School sites that have recently been transferred to City ownership. Where residents already use these spaces as public parks or where they are already adjacent to existing parks, this plan recommends incorporation of the sites into our system of parks.

Finally, this section introduces a pilot program called Gateway Parks. In areas where parks have generally strong neighborhood conditions but may have vacant lots lining the park, this plan recommends the incorporation of these lots into part of the park property as a proactive measure against blight. Gateway Parks will create new entryways into the park and extend the park further into the neighborhood, creating better access and connectivity.

### *Community Open Spaces*

This plan calls out 56 parks to become Community Open Spaces. Residents and organizations constantly reach out to the Parks and Recreation and General Services Departments about open space projects that will improve the quality of life for residents but don't necessarily fit with the overall recreation goals in our parks. All 56 Community Open Spaces are small and located in areas not suitable for traditional play, but can still be utilized as great public spaces. 13 of the 56 parks selected are already adopted, and

the remaining are eligible for partnerships to use these spaces in new ways.

Options for these types of parks are dependent upon resident input but may include forest buffers lining highways, industrial, or residential land to improve air quality, natural corridors to support the movement of wildlife, intentional meadows, and opportunities for urban agriculture. All Community Open Spaces will be kept as public property and maintained three times a year unless a project dictates otherwise. This option will advance the City's efforts to advance networks of open space for preservation and passive recreational use

### **Chapter IV: Implementation Goals**

offers a summary of the recommendations included throughout the plan as well as strategies for its implementation.

## **HOW TO USE THIS PLAN**

The Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan should be considered the most up-to-date resource for Detroit's existing parks and recreation center system for residents, organizations, and other stakeholders interested in the status or future status of specific parkland.

The plan is also a guide to help the General Services (GSD) and Detroit Parks and Recreation Departments (DPRD) best fulfill their missions moving forward. By clearly outlining the future goals for the parks system, those who have ideas for parkland can reference this document first to best understand how their own initiatives may work well with those of GSD and DPRD.

Each program outlined in Chapter III of the plan has been assigned a point person that will continue to hold meetings and work towards the implementation of that specific program. In this way, the Park Improvement Plan can be a nimble and continuously relevant guide for the properties in Detroit's parks and recreation system.



# I: THE CURRENT PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM





## THE CONTEXT OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN DETROIT

One important purpose of this Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan is to consider the changes to the City's demographics and budget since 2006 and to accommodate our action plan for these new realities. This chapter focuses on relevant changes to the city's profile, as well as a listing of parks and recreation centers that have been updated since the time of the original plan. Appendices B and C offer reports on the condition and capacity of each park (B) and recreation center (C) that has undergone improvements since 2006. These retain the same look of the original 2006 Condition and Capacity Reports, but will eventually be reformulated to be more accessible through the City's website. As the website develops, residents will be able to access park reports on the basis of uses, programming, and other themes that may be relevant to everyday park users. All appendices are available for download along with this planning document.

### FROM CLUSTERS TO DISTRICTS

The ten clusters utilized by the 2006 plan were based on the Planning and Development Department's master plan. In 1990 the population was close to one million residents and each cluster was meant to serve roughly 100,000 residents. Since that time, the ten-cluster system has remained in place as a useful tool for long-term spatial planning. However, the population density in Detroit and across these clusters has changed significantly.

On January 1, 2012, the City of Detroit passed a new charter that called for city council elections by district. Previously, nine city council members were chosen at-large across the city. The office of Mayor Mike Duggan also has reflected this shift towards district representation by creating the Department of Neighborhoods with appointed District Managers.

Although the ten planning clusters perhaps are oriented more spatially than the shape of the seven districts, this plan is designed to be useful in collaborating with other citywide initiatives and citizen groups. For that reason, we have organized information

into the district form when possible. The Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan now can be navigated by city council district instead of by planning cluster. Figure 1.1 traces the geographic translation from cluster to district.

### FUTURE LAND USE

Future land use is a critical component to any master planning work. For example, while it is important to serve residential areas with parks and recreation centers, these amenities are not necessary in industrial areas. Detroit is in a significant moment in its land use history, taking into consideration the substantial population losses in many portions of the city and stabilization and concentrated growth in others.

Residents have begun to use land in previously unforeseen ways, by turning open lots into productive green spaces, and by cultivating community through the rehabilitation of parks. New land use categories that rethink open space may guide decision-making processes about park upgrades, maintenance, and where to prioritize park improvements.

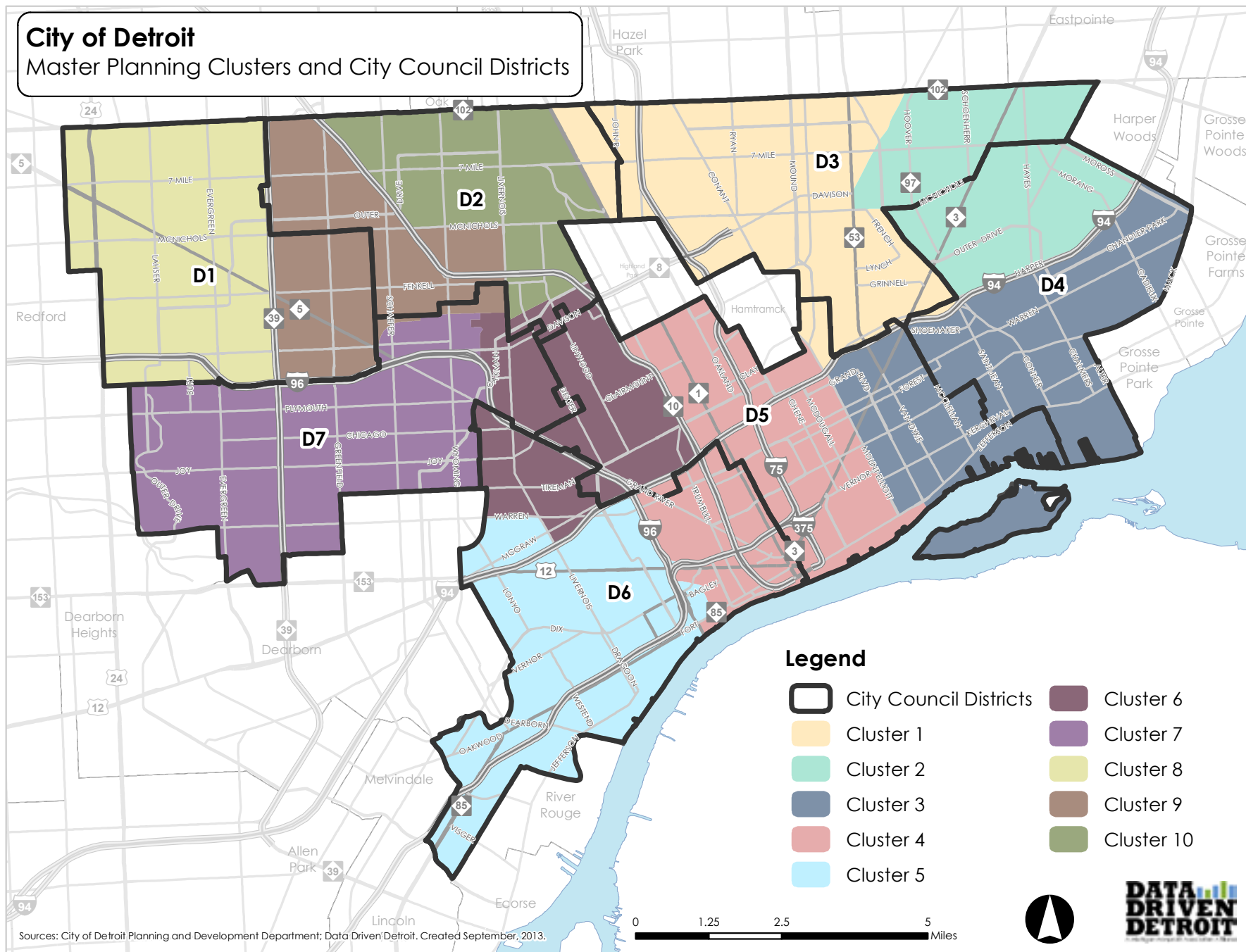


Figure 1.1 Overlay of Planning Clusters (used in the 2006 Strategic Master Plan) and City Council Districts (used in the 2016 plan)

Source: Data Driven Detroit

## VACANCY

Since 2006 the City of Detroit has seen considerable increases in the number of vacant parcels citywide. As the entities responsible for vacant land management, the General Services and Detroit Parks and Recreation Departments allocate a considerable portion of its overall budget towards the management of vacant land.

GSD and DPRD are currently collaborating with a number of partners to both understand and address the scope of vacancy as it relates to our parks and recreation system. All of the strategies found in the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan consider housing vacancy as a factor that influences the success of a park but also land vacancy as something that can help provide greater park access for all Detroiters.

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The Strategic Master Plan was first written in 2006, when the city's population was 918,849. Since that time, Detroit's population has decreased by more than 200,000 residents.<sup>1</sup> While some areas of the city have been devastated by this shift, other pockets of the city have seen an increase in population during the same period.<sup>2</sup>

Between the years 2000 and 2010, Detroit lost a quarter of its total population. By comparison, during the same time period, the total population of Southeast Michigan lost roughly 125,000 residents. Figure 1.2 demonstrates which areas of the City were most affected by this population shift, including large portions of Detroit's northeastern neighborhoods such as Conner/ Lasalle College Park as well as certain far western neighborhoods such as Brightmoor.

However, during the years 2010 through 2014, Southeast Michigan's population rebounded, with the addition of roughly 70,000 residents.<sup>3</sup> In Detroit the overall population has continued to decline. The 2014 population showed an 8.7% decline from 2010,

with the population currently close to 648,000.<sup>4</sup> The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments estimates Detroit's population will continue to decline in the coming decade, with a 2020 population estimate of just under 626,000, and a 2030 population estimate of just under 610,000. In 2040 they anticipate growth in the City, with the population rising back to near 615,000 (see Figure 1.2).

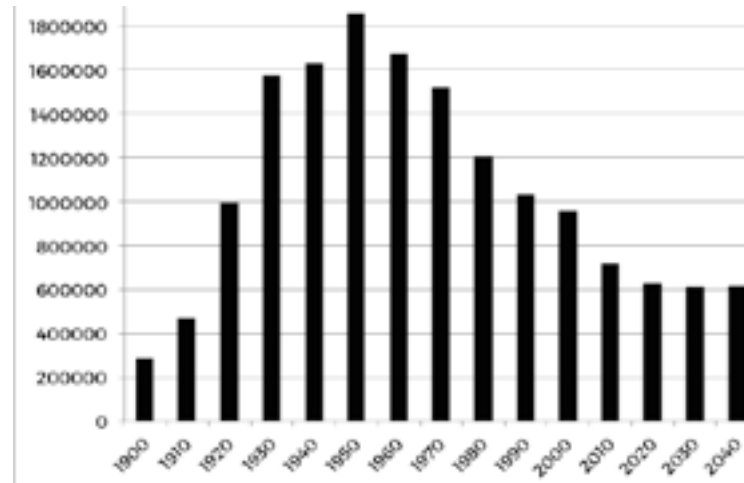


Figure 1.2 Detroit Population Trends 1900-2040 ,  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau & SEMCOG Forecast produced in 2012

## POPULATION CHANGE

Density is one of the most important determinants of where to prioritize park improvements. The higher the concentration of residents living in a specific area, the more likely it is that parks will be used widely.<sup>5</sup>

Figure 1.3 demonstrates the percentage change in population between 2000 and 2010. Areas in blue demonstrate total population losses and areas in orange demonstrate areas of population growth.

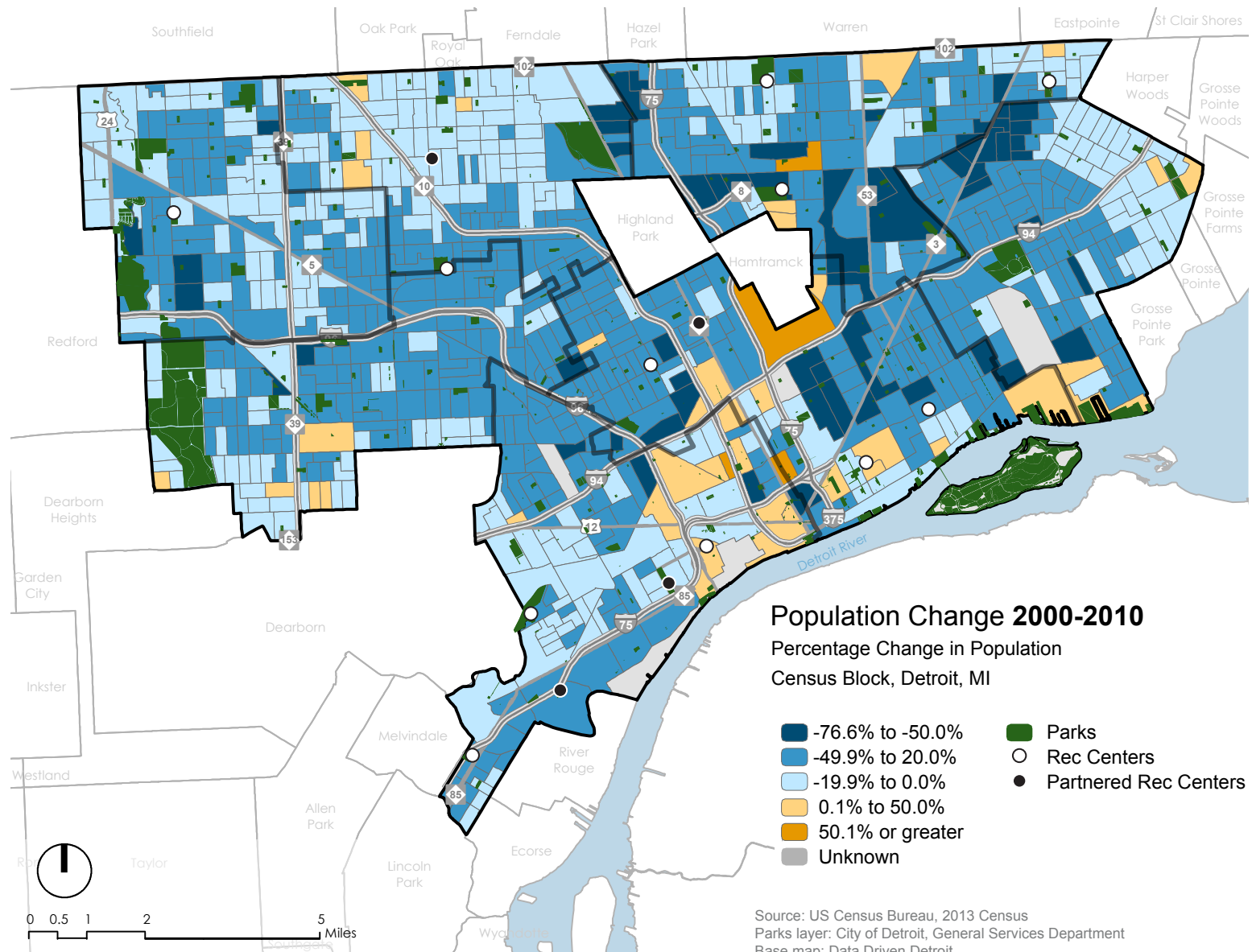


Figure 1.3 Population Change 2000-2010

## POPULATION DENSITY

The density of residents surrounding a park also means that the quality and availability of park programming should change to meet residents' needs. Figure 1.4 shows a measure of Detroit's 2013 population density as it relates to the parks and recreation centers nearby.

Because this map represents density on the scale of a census tract, the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan also measured the more fine-grained context immediately surrounding each park or recreation center.

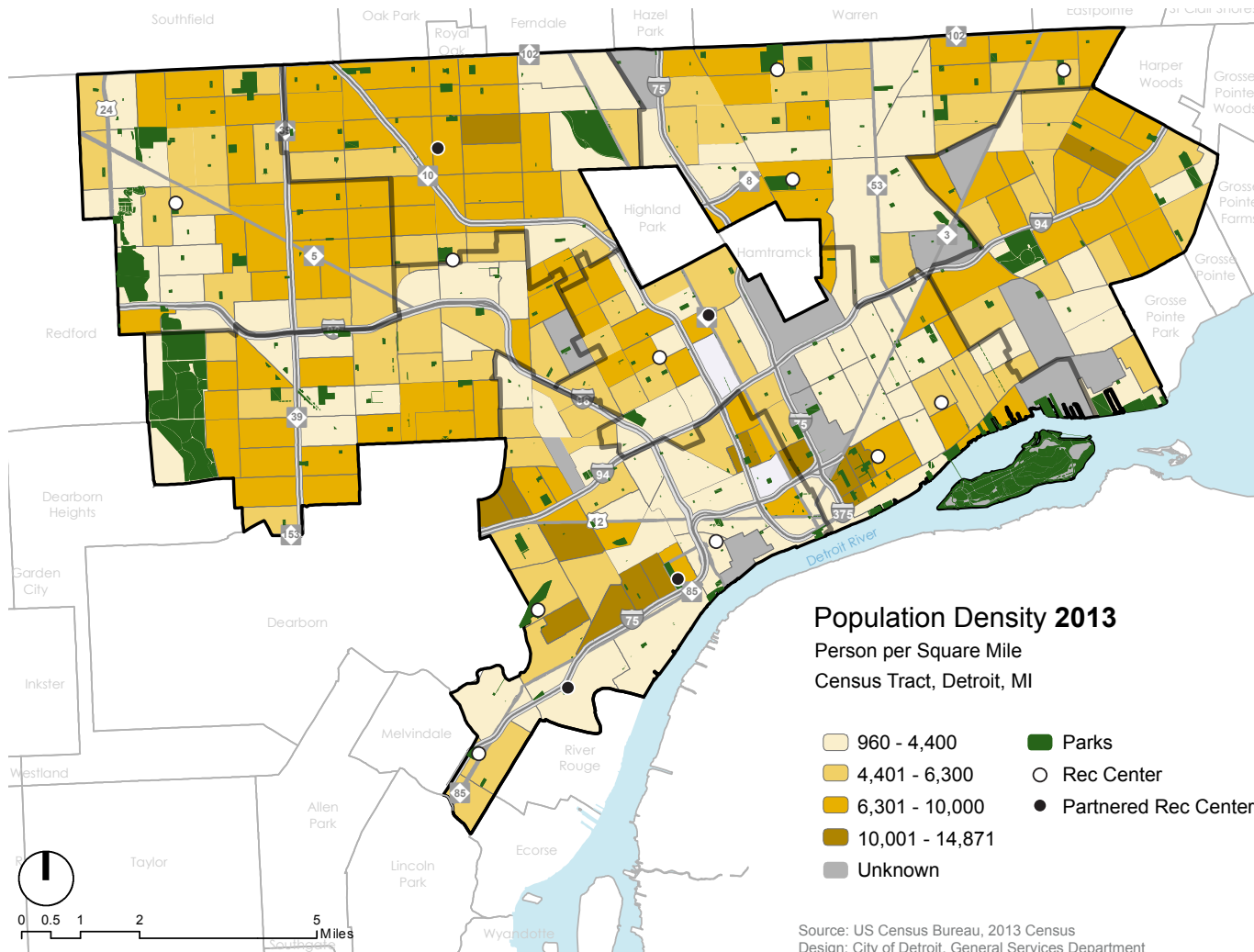


Figure 1.4 Population Density, 2013



## AGE

All Detroiters benefit from access to parks, recreation centers, and open space across the city. While every age group may utilize the parks and recreation system differently, the needs of our youth and aging population are given special attention in this plan. As Figure 1.5 demonstrates, in 2010 the City's 18 and under population accounts for roughly 26% of Detroit's total population. Seven percent of these are children who were under the age of five in

2010. Overall, this was a 35% decrease in the youth population from 2000, which is slightly greater than the population loss among other age groups. Figure 1.7 shows the Census tracts where youth were concentrated in 2013. While the youth population in a few census tracts has shifted, the areas of youth concentration in the city generally remained the same as 2010. (While this planning process does not assess programmatic efforts of the DPRD, future programming should also evaluate rates of childhood obesity within Detroit).

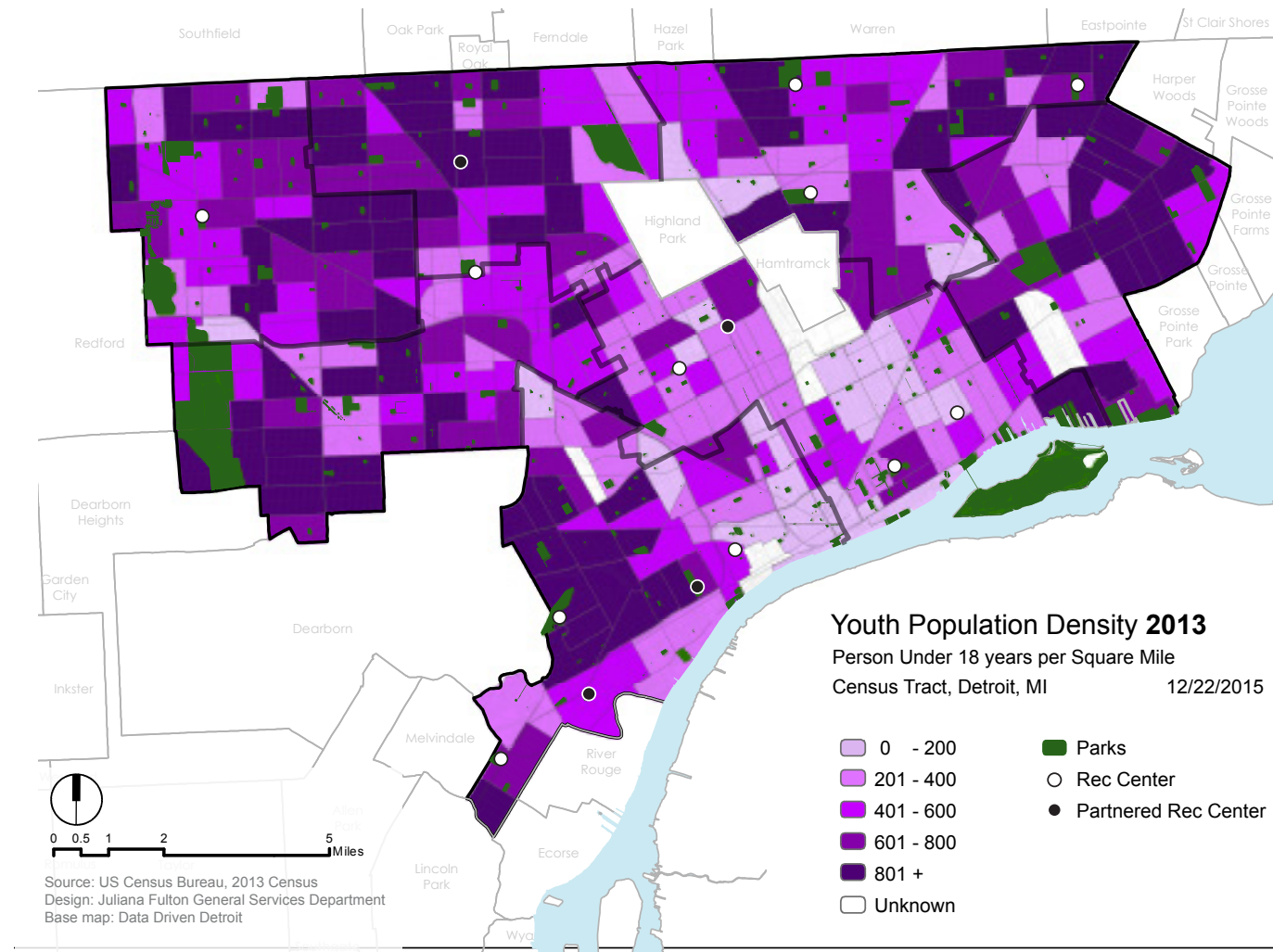


Figure 1.5 Population under 18, 2013

Source: US Census Bureau, 2013 Census

The 2010 Census also showed that Detroit's population of those 75 years and older constituted just over 12% of the total population, with those age 60 and older constituting 35% of the overall population. Figure 1.6 shows the density of residents over the age of 60 across the city by census tract in 2013. Population projections estimate that between 2010 and 2040, the aging population of the City

of Detroit will increase by roughly 45% and the youth population will decrease by close to 39%.<sup>6</sup> While these projections may change in coming Census years, the overarching trend suggests making sure the needs of youth are met, but also ensuring that seniors have access to local parks and connectivity between parks for their recreation needs.

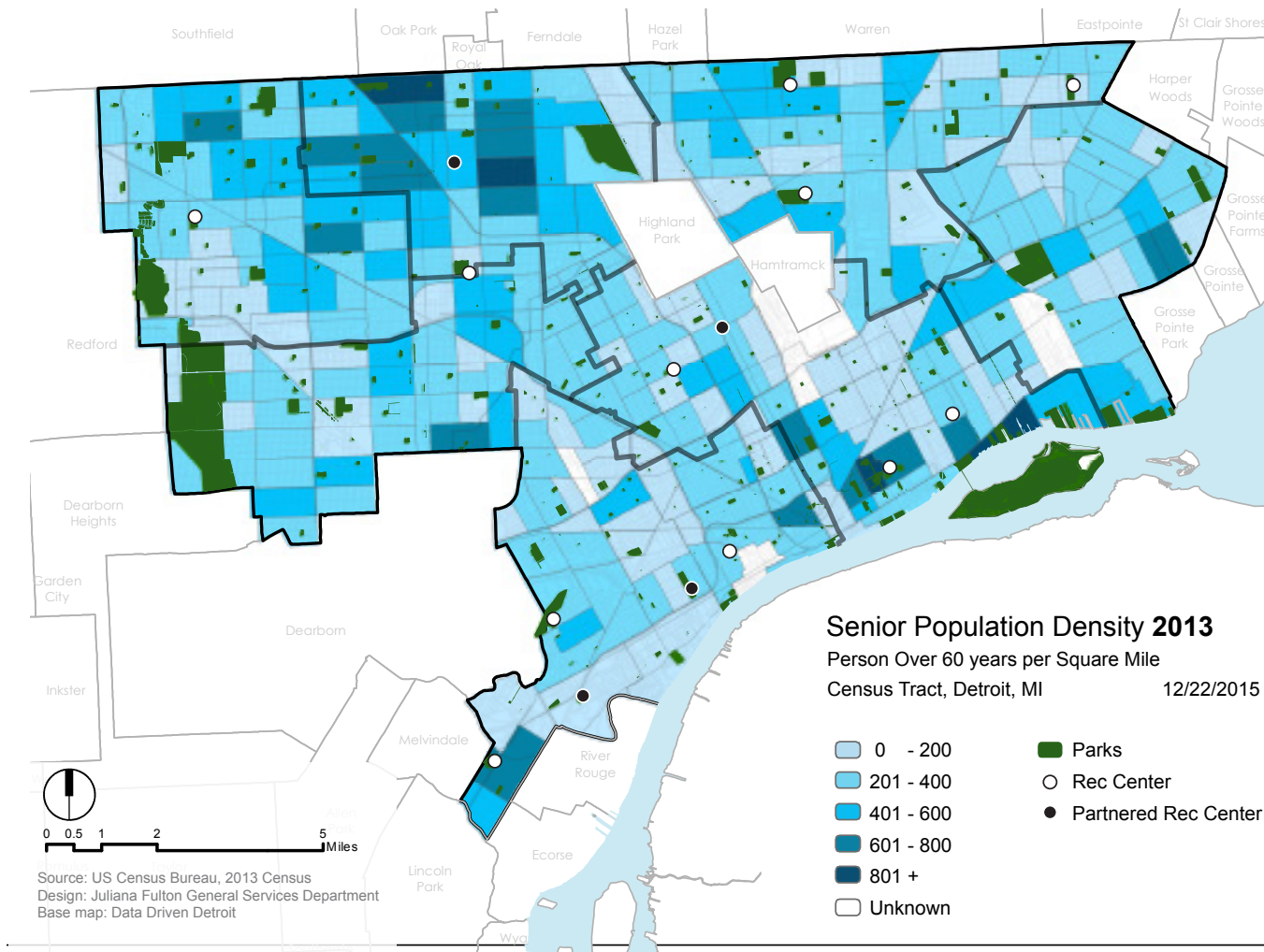


Figure 1.6 Households with Seniors, 2013

## BUILDING PERMIT DENSITY

This plan utilizes building permit density to approximate citywide growth and economic development patterns. Figure 1.7 shows building permit density during the years 2010 through 2014. A few areas of the city

stand out as having high permit density: the area north of Hamtramck that has a significant immigrant population, a broad portion of the Northwest part of the city, Midtown, Downtown, Morningside, and East English Village.

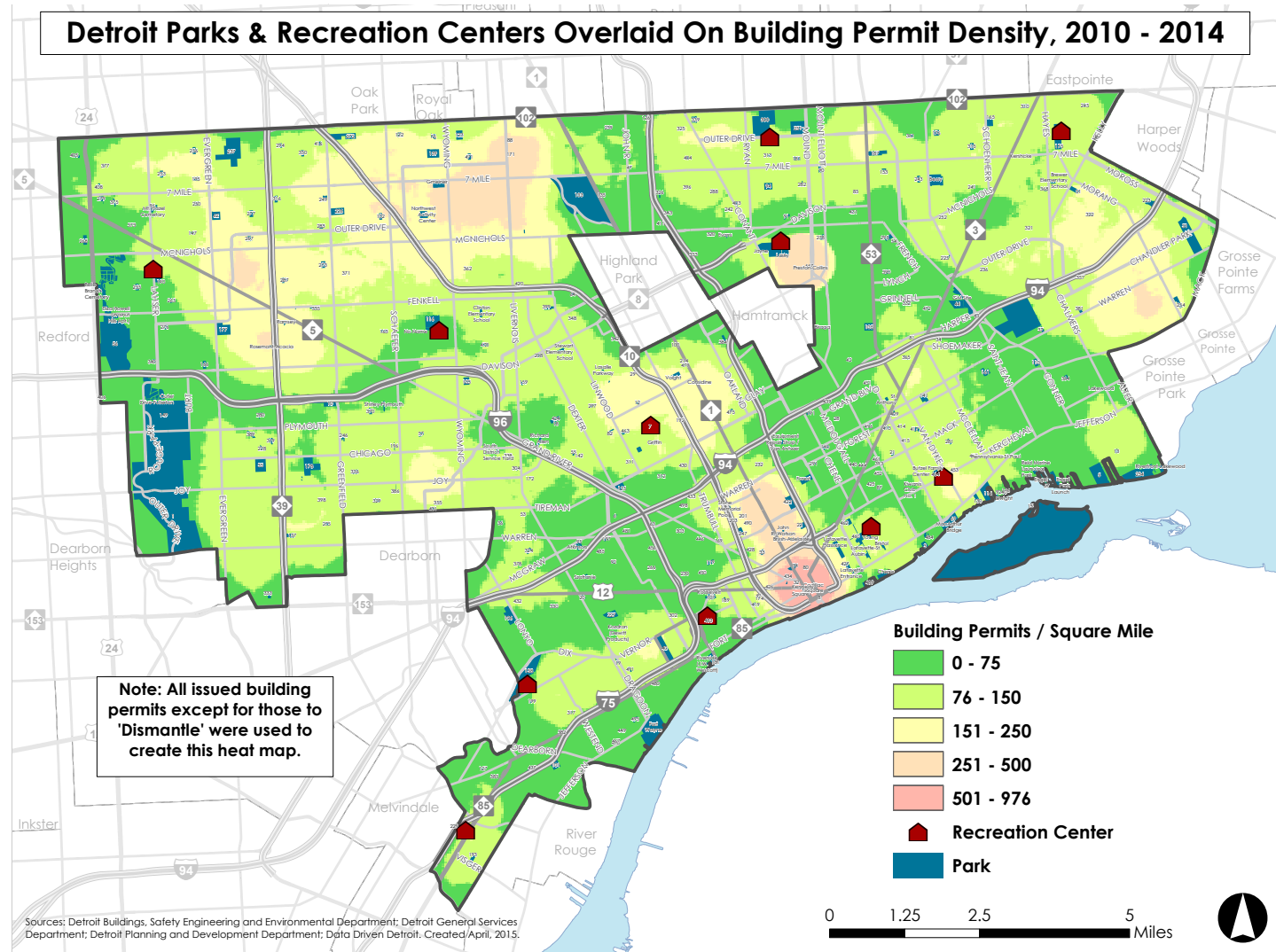


Figure 1.7 Building Permit Density in relation to Detroit Parks and Recreation Centers, 2010-2014



## ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

Another important factor in the consideration of a parks system is transportation access for Detroit residents. Figure 1.8 is a map of all the blocks in the City that, as of 2010, were within a 1/4-mile radius from a DDOT or SMART bus stop. The highlighted areas total 1,063 blocks, revealing that nearly 74,000 residents are without bus access to a park. Bus access is changing rapidly in Detroit. For these residents, access to nearby parks is

essential. Significant work has been done to consider the city's parks as a system that coordinates with and responds to the needs of Detroit's citywide greenway system. The General Services Department continues to coordinate closely with the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Detroit Greenways Coalition, and the Detroit Public Works Department. In assessing the city's parks and recreation centers as a system, consideration was given at every level to consider future trails, greenways, and bike paths that could provide greater park access as well as connectivity between parks.

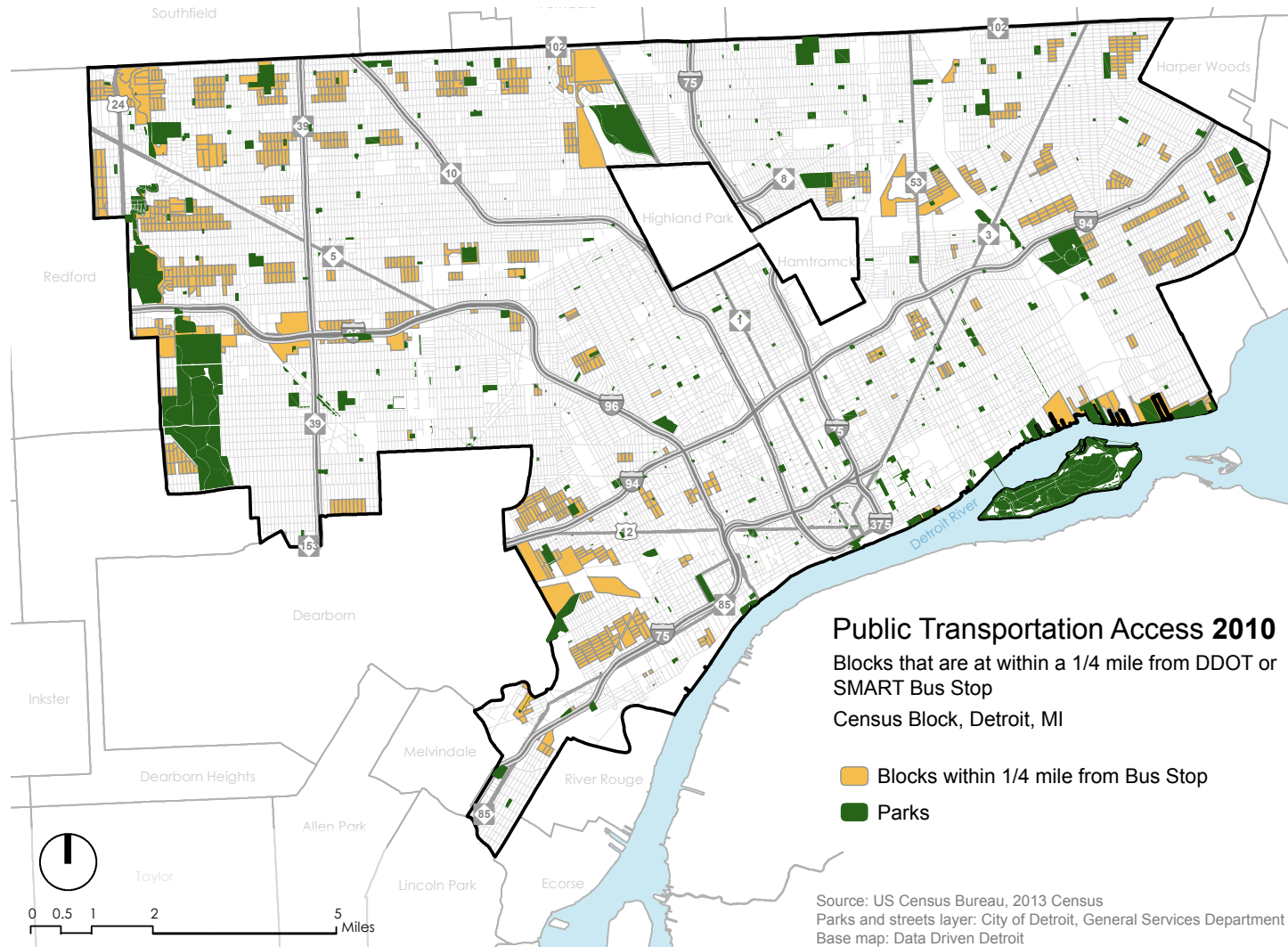


Figure 1.8 Public Transportation Access, 2010

## SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

Socioeconomic status is a demographic characteristic that did not guide decision-making relative to parks and recreation centers in this plan. However, the history of urban planning has demonstrated a tendency to disenfranchise minority and low-income populations in the process of large-scale planning efforts. For that reason, this plan created a framework for making decisions about capital improvements, and then utilized the data in Figures 1.9 and 1.10 as a means to re-evaluate these choices in light of

race and socioeconomic status. This is reflected in the final recommendations for capital improvements and parks that should be considered for other land use opportunities through community partnerships. This plan argues for the equitable distribution of parks throughout the entire city, but especially in places where open public space is typically not supported by private-public partnerships.

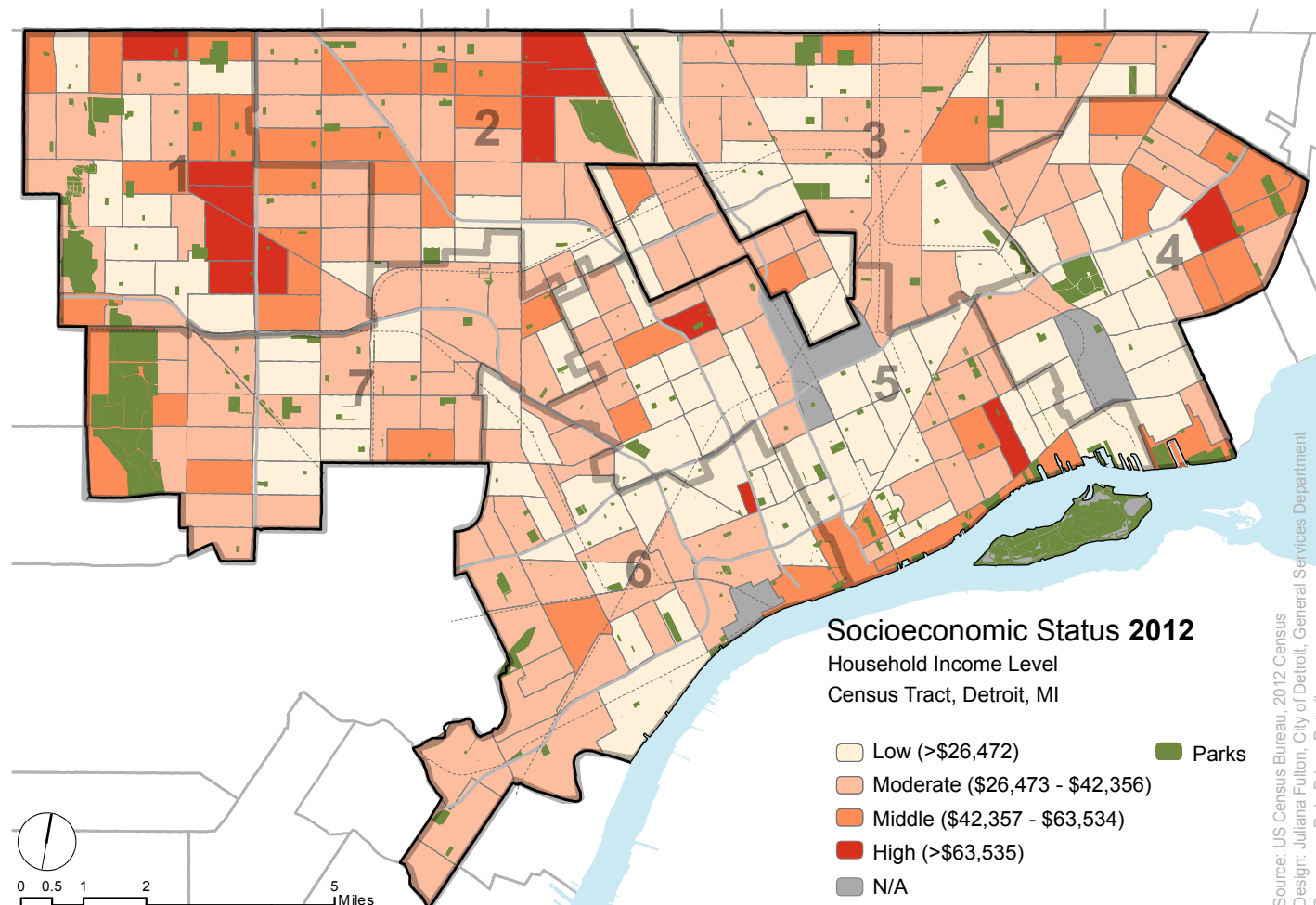


Figure 1.9 Socioeconomic Status, 2012



## RACE AND PARKS AND RECREATION PLANNING

Similar to socioeconomic status, race is a factor critical to any planning process but one that did not drive decision-making up front in this plan. Figure 1.10 shows how remarkably segregated the Detroit metropolitan region reflected in the 2010 Census.

With regards to park and recreation center planning, GSD and DPRD strive to ensure that their improvements to parks and recreation centers are carried out equitably across the entire city and do not inadvertently privilege a particular race or ethnicity.

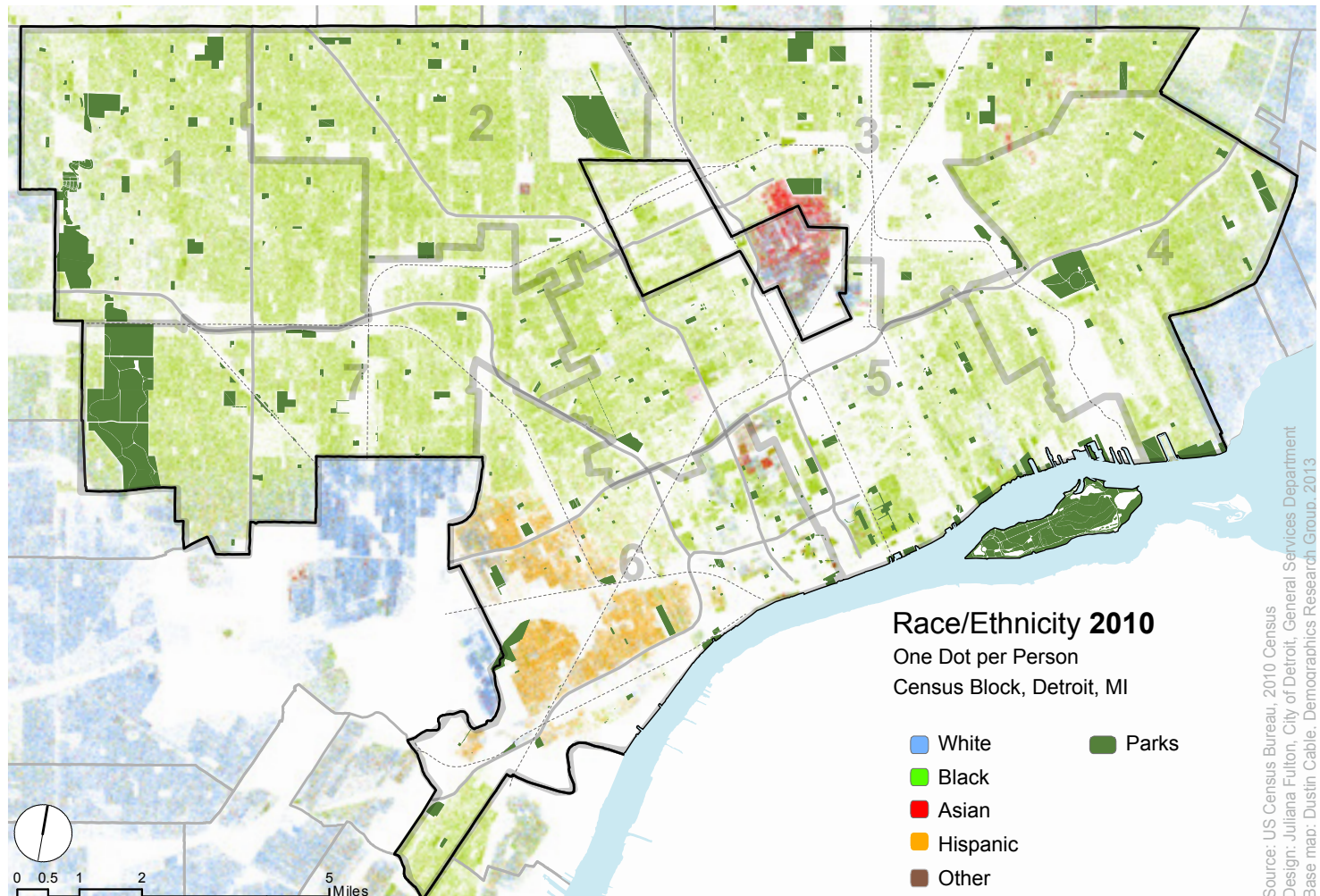


Figure 1.10 Race/ Ethnicity 2010

## WHAT WE HAVE RIGHT NOW

The 2006 Strategic Master Plan looked specifically at parks and recreation centers under the jurisdiction of the Detroit Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Detroit. This plan does the same. While greenways, trails, and recreation centers maintained by other agencies, organizations, and businesses are considered part of the broader mosaic of recreational opportunities; this plan does not address them. However, in our effort to understand the extensive range of recreation needs, this plan does include maps of active Detroit Public Schools that the City is working to partner with in order to support our under-served recreational spaces.

## PARKS

There are currently 308 parks used for active and passive recreation under the jurisdiction of the Detroit Parks and Recreation Department and maintained by both the General Services and Detroit Parks and Recreation Departments. In total, the General Services department is responsible for maintaining 374 properties. In addition to city-owned parks, these properties include 12 boulevards, three cemeteries, 4 golf courses (3 of which are included in the 308 parks), 19 greenbelts (one greenbelt is considered as a park because it is sufficiently wide to accommodate play equipment), 8 miscellaneous lots, 19 parkways, and 4 parklots (lots whose size is inadequate for consideration as park space).

The city's parks range in size from the smallest at .07 acres to the largest at 1,181 acres. In sum, the city maintains 5,633 acres of land, 4,899 of which are park space. According to the Trust for Public Land 2015 City Park Facts, in 2013, parkland as a percentage of the adjusted city area was 6.4%, just under the average for cities of that size at 7.7%. By comparison with other medium-to-high density cities, Cincinnati has 15.4% of its acreage as parkland, and Stockton, CA has 3.0% park space. In considering walkable access to a nearby park, Detroit ranks 16th in this country's 50 largest cities. As of 2013, 548,244 Detroit residents lived within a half-mile of a park, which was 76.8% of its population.<sup>7</sup>

According to ParkScore in 2015, out of the 75 largest US cities, Detroit ranked as the very lowest in park spending per resident, at only \$19.36 per person. With an annual capital improvement budget of approximately \$10 million per year, as proposed in the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan, Detroit's park spending would increase to \$34.18 per person, right below Toledo. It would only move Detroit up 3 places. With the capital improvement budget, Detroit would still be comparatively very low-cost, but would be able to improve and maintain all the city parks to a suitable standard within the next ten years.

The same report also notes that Detroit has a low percentage of natural open-space parkland compared to designed recreational parkland. One of the major recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan is to offer residents more natural parkland opportunities. Pages 21-22 showcase existing natural lands in Detroit's parks.

Park Type	Park Size-Range	Number in Detroit
Mini	< 3 acres	170
Neighborhood	3-20 acres	102
Community	21-200 acres	27
Regional	> 200 acres	4
Plaza	Mostly hard-surface landscaping utilized for civic purposes (wide-range of sizes)	5

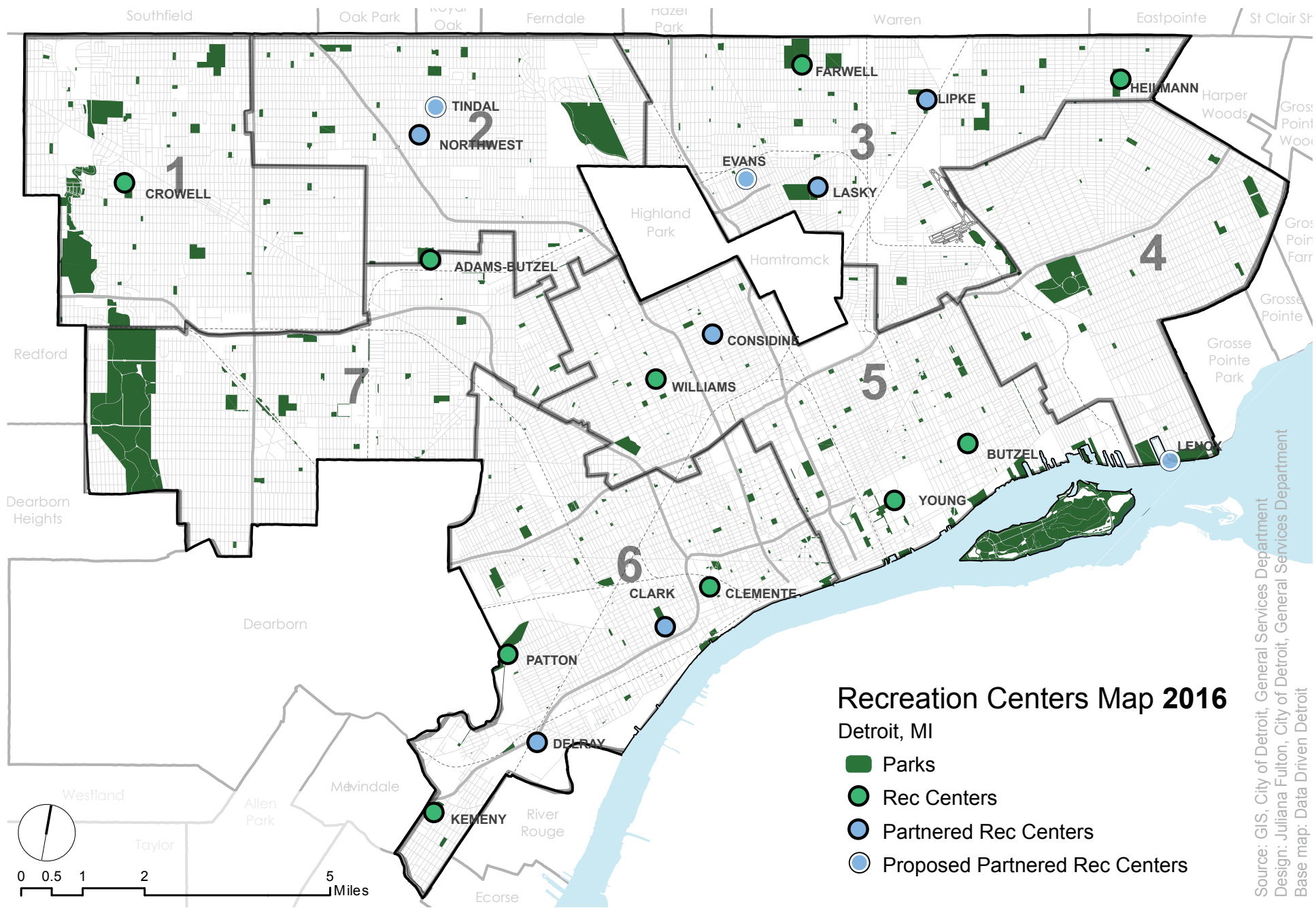


Figure 1.11 Map of current Detroit parkland, 2015



## WETLANDS



US Fish & Wildlife  
Milliken State Park



Maheras Gentry Park

## PRAIRIES



Prairie Trail, Rouge Park

## FORESTS



Aspen Trail, Balduck Park



Pitcher Woods, O'Hair Park



# FORESTS



Palmer Park Woods

# FORESTS ON THE ROUGE RIVER



Eliza Howell Park



Nature Trail, Rouge Park



Frisbee-Pembroke Park



Grayfield-Glenhurst Park



## RECREATION CENTERS

The City of Detroit currently owns and operates eleven recreation centers and one multi-use facility. Lipke Recreation Center, Clark Park Recreation Center, Evans Recreation Center, Tindal Recreation Center, Considine Recreation Center, and Delray Recreation Center are “partnered” centers, for which the city retains ownership but which are managed and programmed by recreation center partners. Together the city owns 18 recreation centers, 6 of which are managed by external partners.

### City Operated Recreation Centers:

- Northwest Activities Center
- Patton
- Butzel Family
- Adams Butzel
- Heilmann
- Crowell
- Kemeny
- Williams
- Lasky
- Farwell
- Young
- Clemente

### Partnered Recreation Centers:

- Lipke
- Clark Park
- Evans
- Tindal
- Considine
- Delray

## PROGRAMMING

The Detroit Parks and Recreation Department estimates the provision of programming services to 12,250 participants weekly across Detroit during warm months. These numbers include both children and adults. Each weekend, between 5,000 and 7,000 residents are estimated to use the parks for special events like family gatherings, picnics, senior Olympics, festivals, and other events that require permitting. While these measures do not tell us about informal park usage, they do offer insight into the types of amenities that are most heavily programmed in city parks and recreation centers. In Detroit parks, the most popular sports are softball, baseball, football, and soccer. Many residents have shown interest in playing lesser-known sports such as frisbee, rugby, volleyball, and kickball. While community input on park amenities speaks to the popularity of sports like basketball, this is not reflected in the DPRD programming numbers because it is often played as a pick up game or without a permit.

The eleven recreation centers regularly provide programming for 900 visitors per day. This includes planned programming as well as drop-in activities for youth, adults, and seniors. In the 2014/2015 year, attendance for sports programming includes the following:

Youth Basketball: 21,120 attendees  
Soccer: 1,760 attendees  
Swimming lessons: 1,420 attendees  
Flag Football: 750 attendees  
Archery: over 5,800 attendees  
Lacrosse: 25 registered participants  
Competitive Swim: 149 registered participants

During the summer months from April until August, the Detroit Police Athletic League (PAL) uses DPRD parks to program 2,375 kids daily. This number can be broken down between 1200 football participants, 775 baseball participants, and 400 soccer participants. In the months between June and November, the PAL participation numbers jump to 2,800 and focus solely on football.

See Chapter IV for park programming recommendations.

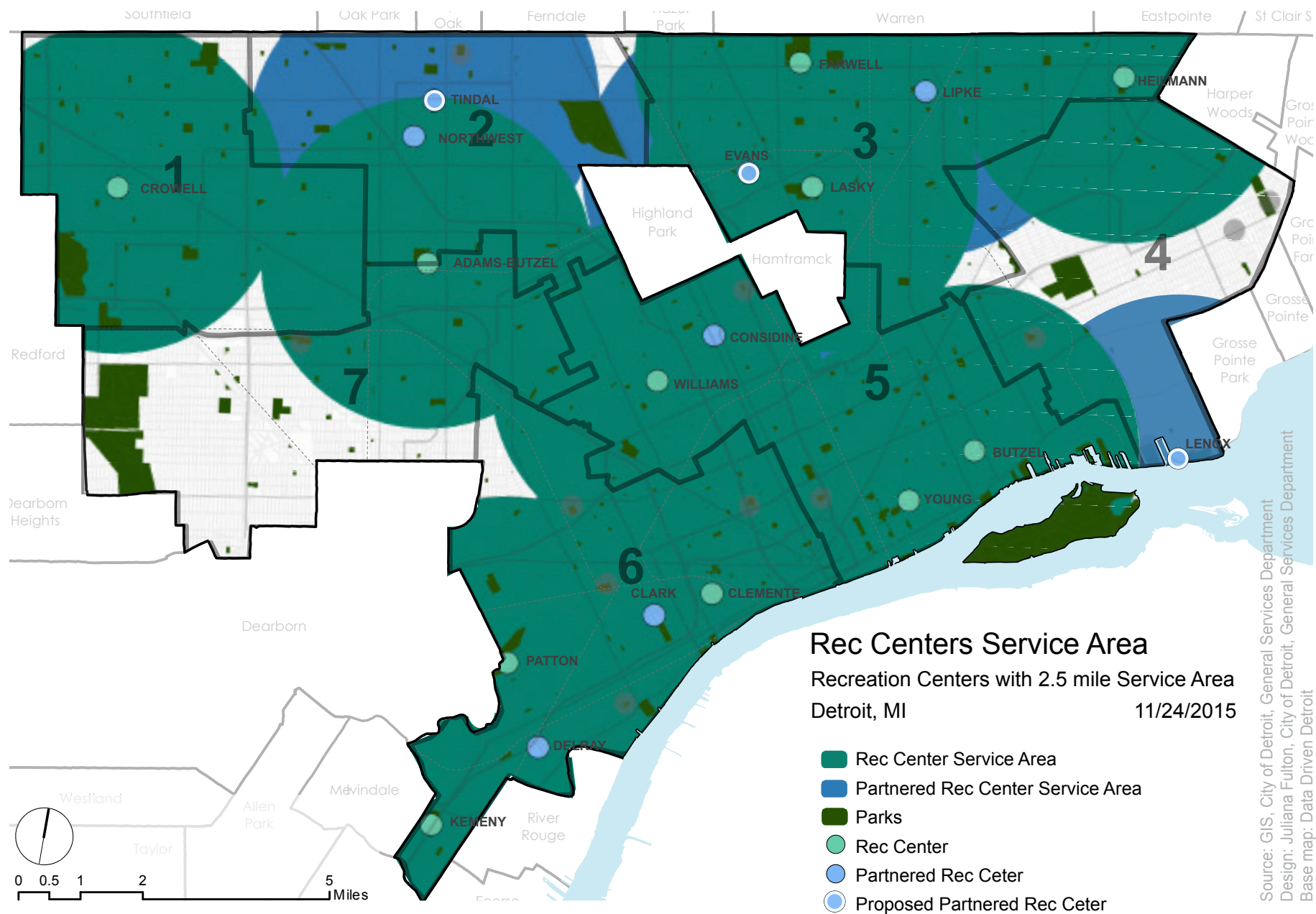
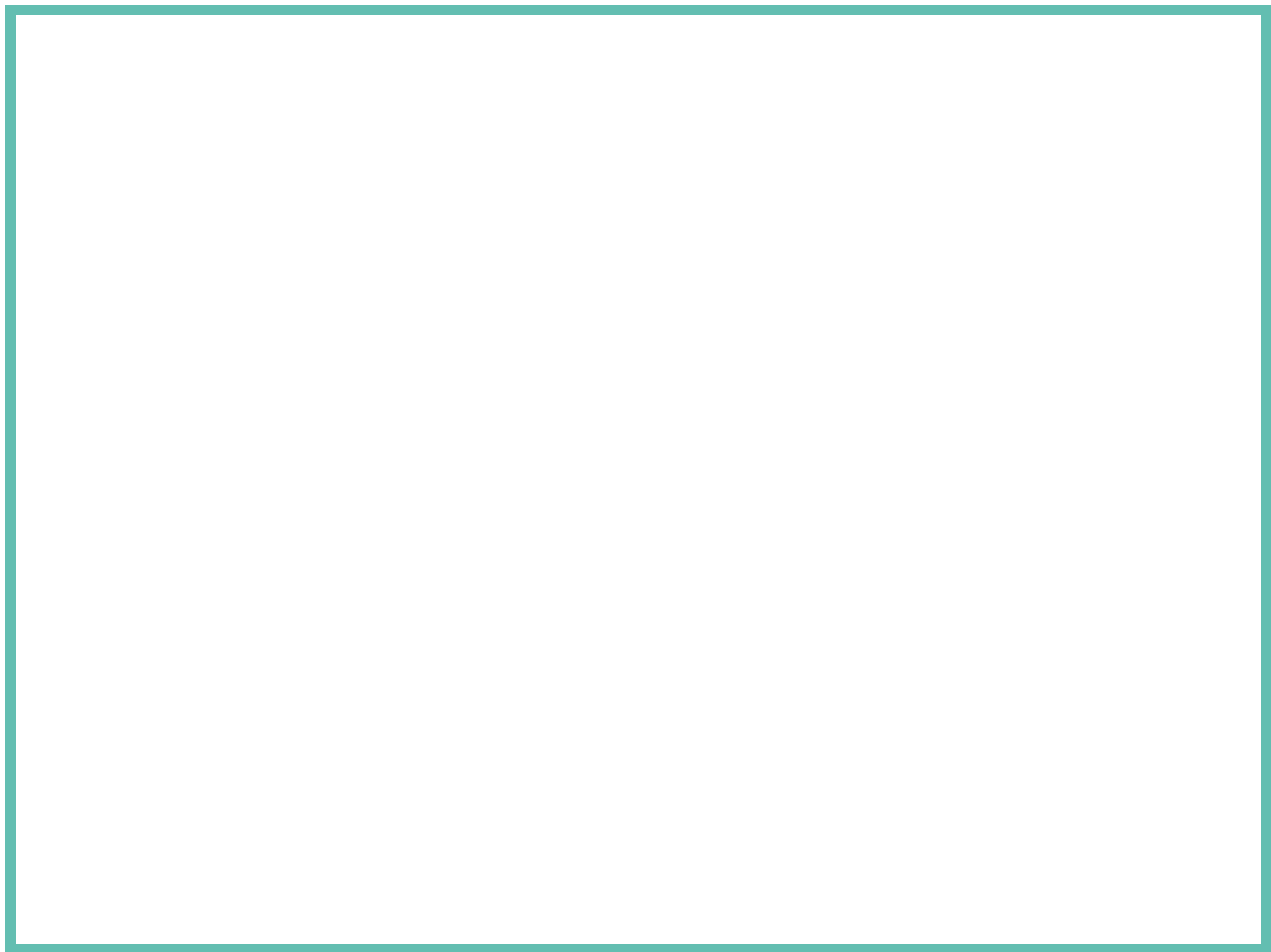


Figure 1.12 All Detroit Recreation Centers with a 2.5 mile radius to approximate access

## SOURCES

1. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/26/2622000.html>
2. Seven Point Two Square Miles: A Report on Greater Downtown Detroit, 2nd Ed. <http://detroitsevenpointtwo.com/>
3. A Region on the Rebound: SEMCOG's Estimates of Populations and Households, July 2013. <http://semcog.org/plans-for-the-region/economic-development/placemaking/population-estimates>
4. Population and Household Estimates for Southeast Michigan December 2014: <http://semcog.org/plans-for-the-region/economic-development/placemaking/population-estimates>
5. <http://cityparksblog.org/2010/02/18/rezoning-for-more-density-around-trails-parks/>
6. U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and SEMCOG 2040 Forecast produced in 2012.
7. [https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/files\\_upload/2015-City-Park-Facts-Report.pdf](https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/files_upload/2015-City-Park-Facts-Report.pdf)



## II: VISION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN





## PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan team held two citywide public input meetings as well as ongoing feedback solicitation from residents. These meetings were not meant to replace the comprehensive community engagement that guided the 2006 planning process. Many of the goals and types of amenities that residents desire for their parks have remained similar (see Section II of this chapter for details on any changes). The goal for these meetings was to seek resident prioritization of parks to improve and the sequence of improvements. Residents were also asked to speak about their amenities needs and specific Detroit Public School sites that could become desirable future parks.

Meeting promotions were designed by the city's creative services department and were disseminated primarily to:

- directories of residents and community-based organizations compiled by city departments and utilized when communicating with the general public;
- a database of individuals who have attended other parks meetings designed to gather community input into projects and upgrades planned for several Detroit parks;
- the city's seven Department of Neighborhoods district managers, who were encouraged to forward flyers to their listings of district community members and organizations;
- the city's eleven recreation centers.

All were encouraged to distribute the flyers widely, and reproductions were seen in several community newsletters as a result.

The first meeting took place on the east side of Detroit at the Butzel Family Recreation Center. The second was held at the Adams-Butzel Recreation Center on the west side of the City. Approximately 120 residents attended the meetings. Residents sat at tables according to their city council district, with maps of the parks and recreation centers in their district. They were asked first to create a list of priorities for parks in their neighborhoods in need of improvements and/ or better maintenance. Second, residents were asked to detail recreational amenities desired in

their neighborhood. Finally, residents reviewed a listing of Detroit Public School properties potentially set to be transferred to Detroit's Recreation Department and provided their input about whether these sites could be well situated for future parks. The results of this feedback are as follows.

### Park Priorities

Residents in each district were given three adhesive dots and were asked to place them on their district map on a park that they would like to see prioritized in the schedule for park improvements. Facilitators at each table took notes to create a comprehensive understanding of residents' priorities. While the specific parks differed at each table and across the input sessions, residents input aligned closely with this plan's maps of population density and parks that GSD and DPRD staff members had already noted for desired or needed improvements.

### Amenity Needs

The Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan addresses capital improvements and the order of those improvements to parks but not programming changes that happen within the parks. While programming is an important piece of the overall park planning picture, and is discussed further in Chapter IV, residents were asked during community meetings which amenities were missing from their neighborhood parks instead of what classes, groups, or sports they would like on a park by park basis. By knowing what amenities residents wanted and did not have, the planning team was able to determine any gaps in service based on the type of recreation residents are interested in. Amenity needs are again addressed on a park-by-park basis when each park comes up on the capital improvements schedule. At that time, additional public outreach will be conducted in the neighborhood around the individual park for more specific details on park needs and desires.



## Detroit Public Schools (DPS) Acquisitions

Finally, residents were asked to share their expertise regarding specific former Detroit Public School sites. Maps provided at each table detailed the locations of the DPS sites, and residents were asked to give feedback about the specific block and whether buildings remaining on site should be restored or demolished, and whether the site would be desirable for future park space. Residents expressed concern about the idea of the Parks and Recreation Department acquiring more property when the General Services maintenance schedule did not currently meet their needs. Many residents suggested first prioritizing the maintenance of existing parks. If, however, these school properties do become city property, the majority of residents wanted to focus first on Detroit Public School sites adjacent to existing parks, therefore minimizing the maintenance burden while simultaneously strengthening the park in size and impact.

## Ongoing Input

Community input does not stop with the completion of this document. As each individual park improvement project begins, the Landscape Design Unit of the General Services conducts several additional site surveys and meets with local residents to plan for what amenities and design would be most desirable in each park. Determining what belongs in each park as part of the Capital Improvement Priorities is only a rough estimate for budgetary purposes. Decisions are made about park amenities with the input of residents in the surrounding communities as part of an ongoing process. Appendix A includes a survey that is conducted at each park site prior to improvements by a member of the Landscape Design Unit Staff before reaching out to residents.



Above: Community input at the Adams-Butzel Recreation Center

Beyond gathering residents input on a park-by-park basis, the GSD and DPRD departments are working to establish a continual unsolicited input mechanism online via the City's broader Open Data project. Ideally, the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan will be both accessible for reading on the City's website but also a document that residents can react to and provide feedback on a continual basis. For more on programming and open information about programming, see Chapter IV: Implementation Goals.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

During the 2006 Strategic Master Plan process, the Detroit Recreation Department (now Detroit Parks and Recreation Department) established several principles that would guide recreation planning. These original principles and goals are outlined on pages 24-26 of the 2006 plan. Many of these goals remain the same or only slightly amended. For a full discussion of the differences between the two planning documents, see Appendix A. Major new goals and priorities for the 2016 Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan are detailed below.

Whenever possible, these measures have been taken into consideration when evaluating the parks system and in a variety of strategies for improvement. Long-term resiliency of the parks and recreation system depends on continued (and in some cases, increased) engagement across these three priorities. As with many quality of life measures, these priorities consistently overlap with one another, creating multiple points of reinforcement throughout the plan.

## VISION FOR THE PLAN

This plan was written in the midst of a rich planning environment in Detroit. Organizations such as the Community Development Advocates of Detroit, Detroit Future City, and the City's own Planning and Development Department have undergone intensive and challenging planning processes.

As the city's vision for redevelopment has evolved, so too have strategies within the General Services Department and Detroit Parks and Recreation Department. Any good planning tool requires an overarching vision to maintain its relevance, even as small amendments and changes to the plan inevitably will occur. This Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan for the General Services and Detroit Parks and Recreation Departments incorporates the work and knowledge of countless stakeholders in the City into its overarching vision as a means to guide decision-making at a high level. This vision can be achieved on the basis of the following priorities:

- Public health
- Green infrastructure and Natural Landscapes
- Economic development and Neighborhood Stabilization
- Park Access and Connectivity



Seniors dancing at Chene Park,  
Brennan Pool at Rouge Park  
Source: Kwabena Shabu

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health is one of the most important missions of any parks and recreation system. This plan focuses on amenities that facilitate healthy initiatives and build off of existing networks of programming rather than new strategies like those discussed in Chapter I. One strategy to offer a robust parks system that impacts public health is to provide a range of recreational opportunities that meet a variety of needs. GSD and DPRD recognize that although their departments do offer a broad range of park amenities, residents do not know about these amenities, and often drive to distant suburban areas to access an amenity that is available to them within Detroit. To address this, the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan team is working with the Detroit Office of Information Technology to create an easily accessible platform for residents to search for the type of amenity they are looking for and its nearest location. This is detailed in Chapter IV.

Whereas access to open space for play and relaxation are necessary steps towards helping reduce obesity and other public health issues, municipalities around the world increasingly are incorporating a broader definition of public health into the ways they think about their parks. In many of these plans, public health extends beyond healthy lifestyle choices for individuals, to considering community and regional impacts of emergency preparedness, environmental health, and access to food. This plan collaborated with organizations like Keep Growing Detroit and the Detroit Climate Action Collaborative in efforts to understand how the prioritization of our parks and recreation centers impact broader public health goals. The plan also recommends collaboration with the City of Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion to ensure meeting the public health goals of the plan.



## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURAL LANDSCAPES

The Detroit Parks and Recreation and General Services Departments view themselves as stewards of the natural landscape in Detroit. Detroit has an aging combined sewer system. During each event of heavy rain, the sewer system becomes overwhelmed, contaminating the City's rivers and drains. One way to address this problem while working to protect the region's ecosystem is through natural and man-made systems designed to help manage water flows.

Recognizing the budget restraints GSD and DPRD continue to face, both departments have the opportunity to rethink underutilized partnerships with other entities such as Detroit Water and Sewerage department to consider all parks as part of a green infrastructure network. This plan offers a list of Detroit Parks and Recreation Department properties that may be better utilized as green spaces and natural parkland instead of traditional recreational parks. These parks have been sorted into ideal types of re-uses, from meadows to forest buffers. For residents living near these lots, these implementation efforts confer a higher quality of life for the neighborhood, not only in terms of environmental remediation, but also greater natural beauty and public access to these spaces. As Detroit strives to become a national leader in environmental sustainability efforts, the parks and recreation system can set a strong example for residents and become a site for green infrastructure education and implementation.

The Trust for Public Land ranks Detroit as 97th of the largest 100 cities with natural open space as compared to designed (traditional playscape feature) park space. This plan encourages a move towards more natural landscapes throughout the City's parkland by promoting opportunities for natural landscapes in portions of existing parks. The facility prototypes in the 2006 Strategic Master Plan have been amended to reflect this new position towards curated natural space in collaboration with community partners and their specific needs on a park-by-park basis.



Detroit's Green Alley in Midtown is a great example of green infrastructure in the City that many residents enjoy.  
Source: <http://carriedawaydetroit.com/2014/09/29/detroit-design-festival-jane-jacobs-walking-tour/>

The 2006 Strategic Master Plan included the recommendation of significant numbers of park and recreation center closures. In 2016, the closure of additional parks will only mean a lack of trust among residents and further land abandonment if no purchaser is identified. For this reason, the plan does not adopt the same recommendation of repositioning. Instead, it recognizes a stronger need for more natural (non-programmed) parkland across the city that is retained as public ownership but decreases maintenance needs over time. Chapter III offers a strategy for meeting these new challenges to open space head on and as part of the DPRD list of properties.

The following pages offer updated typologies for the variety of park types that emphasize natural landscape options and move the plan away from the standardization of parks and towards parks with unique features. Recreation Center typologies are also included in this section for ease of use.





# Mini-Park Prototype

## General Description

Mini-parks address limited, isolated, or specialized recreational needs at small sites in developed areas and at sites with unique recreational opportunities. Existing mini-parks may not have all the required facilities and services due to physical limitations and space constraints.

## Attributes

- Size under 3 acres
- Service area with a maximum of 1/4 mile radius
- Located in a primarily residential area
- Street access on at least one side
- Takes advantage of vegetation and other natural resources of the area
- Maintenance equipment accessible

## Active Play Amenities

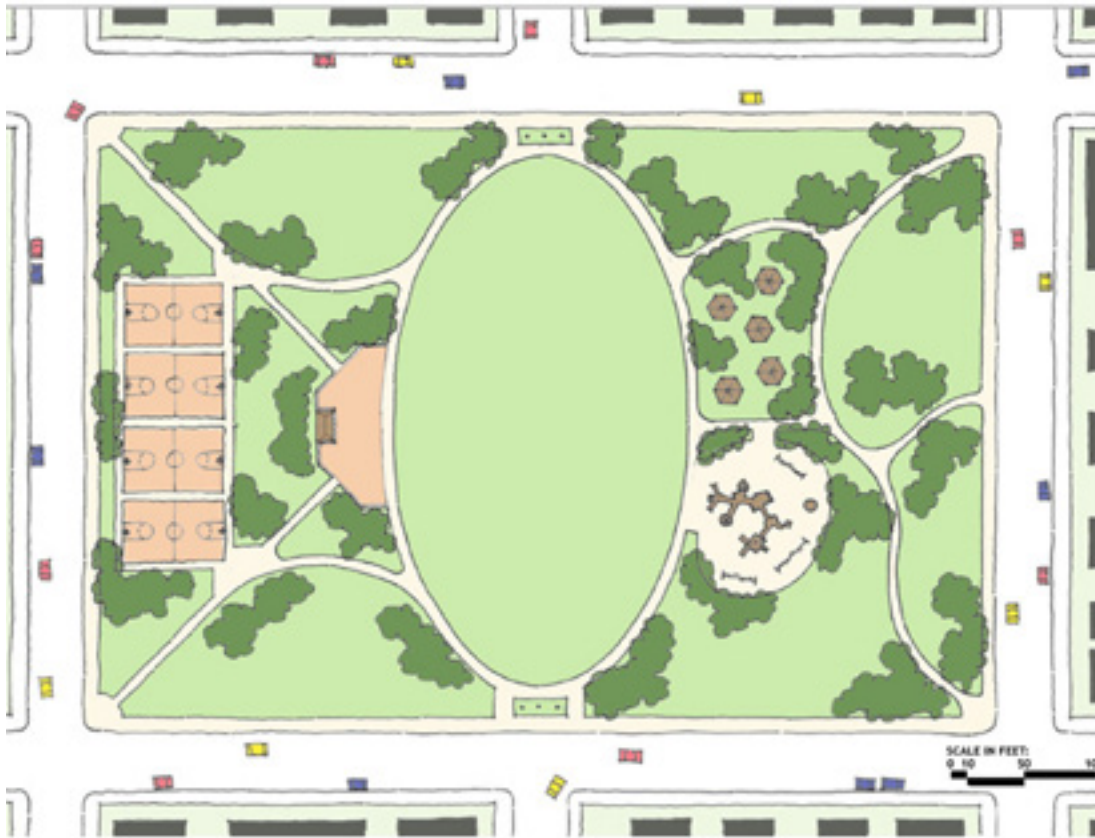
- Swings
- Slide
- Climber
- Play Surfacing (EWF or Rubber)
- Natural play elements
- Basketball court
- Volleyball court
- Horseshoes
- Game pad
- Fitness equipment
- Splash pad
- Open play area
- Skate park

## Passive Landscape Amenities

- Trees
- Rain garden
- Flower garden
- Community garden

## Other Amenities

- Gathering area
- Walking path
- Benches
- Picnic table
- Trash receptacle
- Facility sign
- BBQ grill
- Bike rack/repair station
- Bollards/ boulders/ fencing/
- other boundary
- Little Library
- Dog run
- Water feature
- Art
- Memorial
- Educational signage



### *Active Play Amenities*

- Swings
- Slide
- Climber
- Play Surfacing (EWF or Rubber)
- Natural play elements
- Basketball court
- Volleyball court
- Sledding hill
- Horseshoes
- Game pad
- Fitness equipment
- Splash pad
- Open play area
- Skate park
- Soccer/ football/ rugby field
- Ice skating rink

### *Passive Landscape Amenities*

- Trees
- Rain garden
- Flower garden
- Community garden
- Hill
- Bioswales
- Native meadow
- Orchard
- Pond

## Neighborhood Park Prototype

### General Description

The recreational focus of the neighborhood, these parks offer a balance of active and passive recreation activities to neighborhood residents and provide facilities within walking distance of nearby residents' homes.

### Attributes

- Size between 3-20 acres
- Service area with a maximum 1/2 mile radius
- Located in primarily residential areas
- Street access on at least two sides, preferably four sides
- Takes advantage of vegetation and other natural resources of the area

### *Other Amenities*

- Gathering area
- Walking path
- Benches
- Picnic table
- Trash receptacle
- Facility sign
- BBQ grill
- Bike rack/ repair station
- Bollards/ boulders/ fencing/ other boundary
- Little Library
- Dog run
- Water feature
- Art
- Memorial
- Educational signage
- Picnic shelter
- Drinking fountain
- Concession/ food truck
- Ampitheater



### *Active Play Amenities*

- Swings
- Slide
- Climber
- Play Surfacing (EWF or Rubber)
- Natural play elements
- Basketball court
- Volleyball court
- Sledding hill
- Horseshoes
- Game pad
- Fitness equipment
- Splash pad
- Open play area
- Skate park
- Soccer/ football/ rugby field
- Ice skating rink
- Tennis court
- Baseball/ softball/ kickball field
- Disc golf
- Pickleball
- Cricket

### *Passive Landscape Amenities*

- Trees
- Rain garden
- Flower garden
- Community garden
- Hill
- Bioswales
- Native meadow
- Orchard
- Pond

### *Other Amenities*

- Gathering area
- Walking path
- Benches
- Picnic table
- Trash receptacle
- Facility sign
- BBQ grill
- Bike rack/ repair station
- Bollards/ boulders/
- fencing/ other boundary
- Little Library
- Dog run
- Water feature
- Art
- Memorial
- Educational signage
- Picnic shelter
- Drinking fountain
- Concession/ food truck
- Boat/ kayak launch
- Ampitheater
- Storage
- Designated parking

# Community Park Prototype

## General Description

Community parks provide for active and passive recreational needs of several neighborhoods, allowing for group activities and other recreational opportunities not feasible or desirable at the neighborhood park level.

## Attributes

- Size 21-200 acres
- Service area with a maximum 3 mile radius
- Surrounding land uses are variable
- Adjacent to an arterial or collector street





# Regional Park Prototype

## General Description

Large urban parks provide a city-wide recreation resource and serve as a destination to all residents. The size and location provide a unique natural environment and contain a wide range of recreation opportunities.

## Attributes

- Size 200 + acres
- Service area is across the region
- Surrounding land uses are variable
- Adjacent to an arterial or collector street

## Active Play Amenities

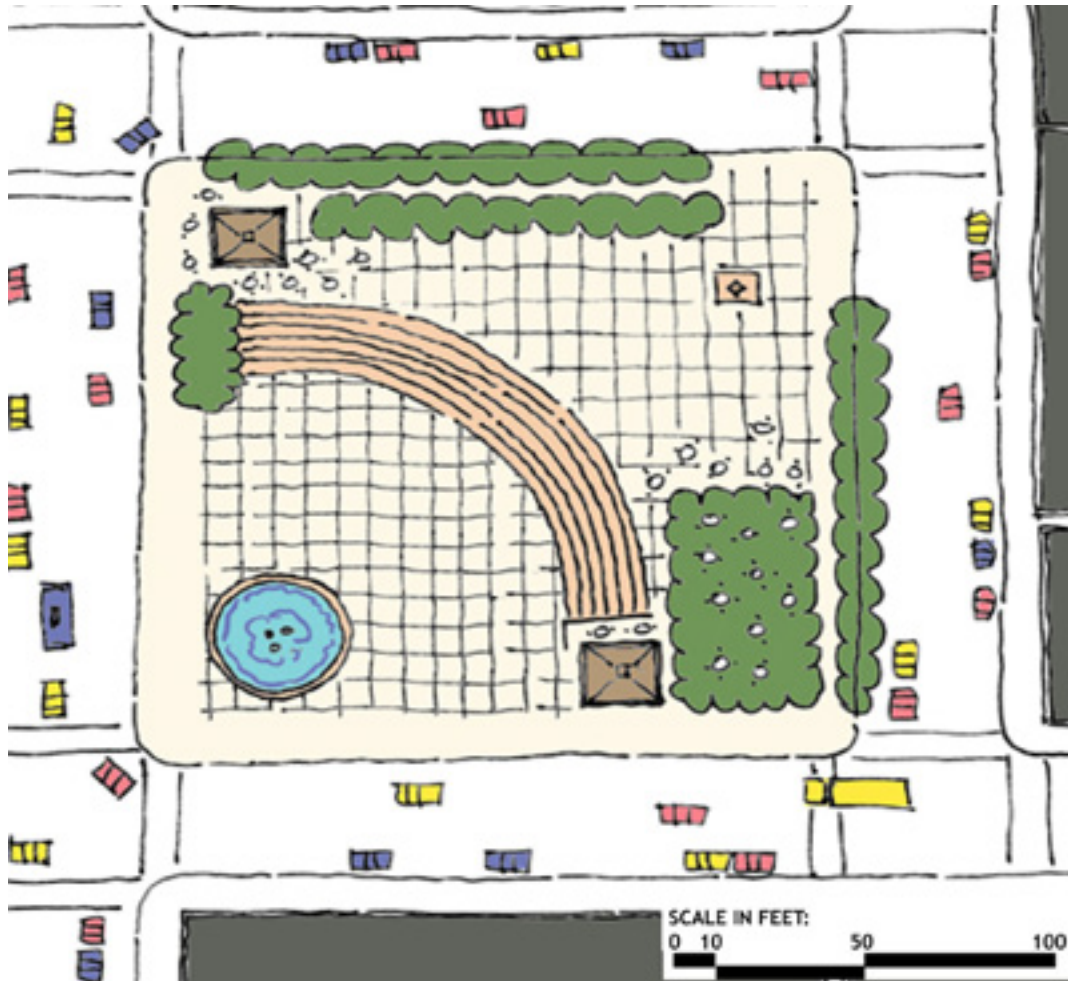
- |                                  |                                |                                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Swings                         | • Horseshoes                   | • Tennis court                     |
| • Slide                          | • Game pad                     | • Baseball/softball/kickball field |
| • Climber                        | • Fitness equipment            | • Disc golf                        |
| • Play Surfacing (EWF or Rubber) | • Splash pad                   | • Pickle ball                      |
| • Natural play elements          | • Open play area               | • Cricket                          |
| • Basketball court               | • Skate park                   |                                    |
| • Volleyball court               | • Soccer/football/ rugby field |                                    |
| • Sledding hill                  | • Ice skating rink             |                                    |

## Passive Landscape Amenities

- Trees
- Rain garden
- Flower garden
- Community garden
- Hill
- Bioswales
- Native meadow
- Orchard
- Pond

## Other Amenities

- |                             |                         |                          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Gathering area            | fencing/ other boundary | • fountain               |
| • Walking path              | • Little Library        | • Concession/ food truck |
| • Benches                   | • Dog run               | • Boat/ kayak launch     |
| • Picnic table              | • Water feature         | • Amphitheater           |
| • Trash receptacle          | • Art                   | • Storage                |
| • Facility sign             | • Memorial              | • Designated parking     |
| • BBQ grill                 | • Educational signage   | • Festival space         |
| • Bike rack/ repair station | • Picnic shelter        | • Boat/ kayak launch     |
| • Bollards/ boulders/       | • Drinking              |                          |



# Plaza Park Prototype

## General Description

Urban plazas are public spaces set aside for civic purposes and commercial activities. They are usually located at the intersection of important streets or other significant locations. Plazas are enclosed by streets and active building frontages. The landscape is mostly hard-surface and may have trees and other plants.

## Attributes

- Variable sizes
- Variable service area
- Street access or active building frontages on all sides

## Active Play Amenities

- Natural play element
- Horseshoes
- Game pad
- Fitness equipment
- Splash pad

## Passive Landscape Amenities

- Trees
- Rain garden
- Flower garden

## Other Amenities

- |   |                         |                      |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| • Gathering area                            | • Little Library        | • Amphitheater       |
| • Benches                                   | • Dog run               | • Storage            |
| • Picnic table                              | • Water feature         | • Designated parking |
| • Trash receptacle                          | • Art                   | • Festival space     |
| • Facility sign                             | • Memorial              |                      |
| • Bike rack/repair station                  | • Educational signage   |                      |
| • Bollards/boulders/fencing/ other boundary | • Drinking fountain     |                      |
|   | • Concession/food truck |                      |





### *Active Play Amenities*

- |                                  |                                 |                            |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Swings                         | • Fitness equipment             | • Softball/ kickball field |
| • Slide                          | • Splash pad                    | • Disc golf                |
| • Climber                        | • Open play area                | • Pickle ball              |
| • Play Surfacing (EWF or Rubber) | • Skate park                    | • Cricket                  |
| • Basketball court               | • Soccer/ football/ rugby field |                            |
| • Volleyball court               | • Ice skating rink              |                            |
| • Sledding hill                  | • Tennis court                  |                            |
| • Horseshoes                     | • Baseball/                     |                            |
| • Game pad                       |                                 |                            |

### *Passive Landscape Amenities*

- Trees
- Rain garden
- Flower garden
- Hill
- Bioswales
- Native meadow
- Pond

# Sports Park Prototype

## General Description

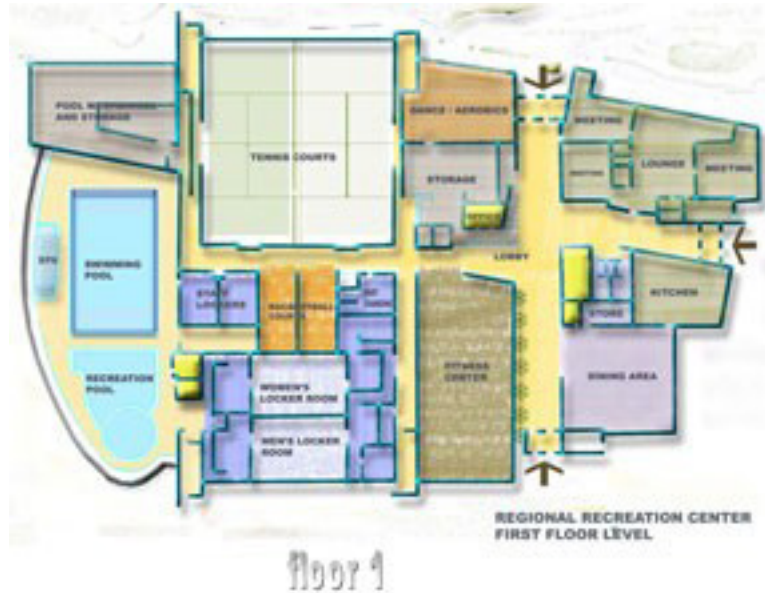
It is the goal of the Detroit Parks and Recreation and General Services Departments to provide the required facilities and services where possible in existing and proposed sports complexes.

## Attributes

- Size of the site is 100+ acres
- Service area is community wide
- Surrounding land uses are variable
- Adjacent to an arterial or collector street

## *Other Amenities*

- |                             |                           |                          |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Gathering area            | • fencing/ other boundary | • fountain               |
| • Walking path              | • Little Library          | • Concession/ food truck |
| • Benches                   | • Dog run                 | • Boat/ kayak launch     |
| • Picnic table              | • Water feature           | • Storage                |
| • Trash receptacle          | • Art                     | • Designated parking     |
| • Facility sign             | • Memorial                |                          |
| • BBQ grill                 | • Educational signage     |                          |
| • Bike rack/ repair station | • Picnic shelter          |                          |
| • Bollards/ boulders/       | • Drinking                |                          |



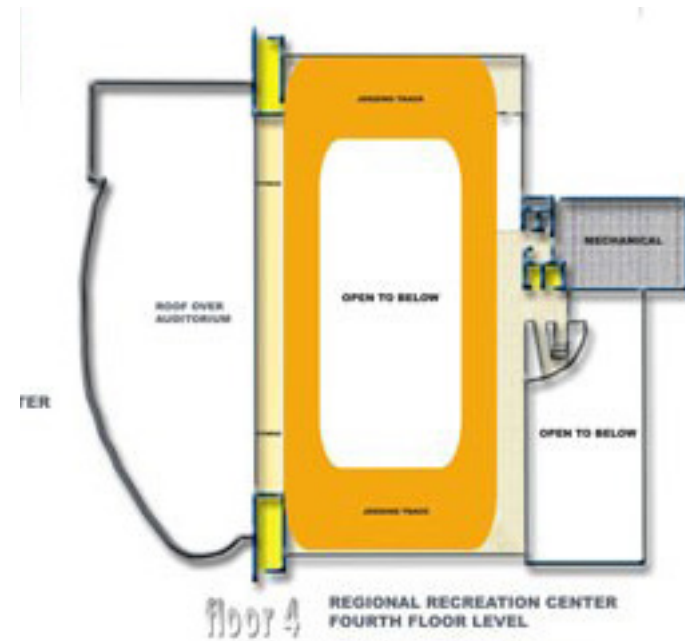
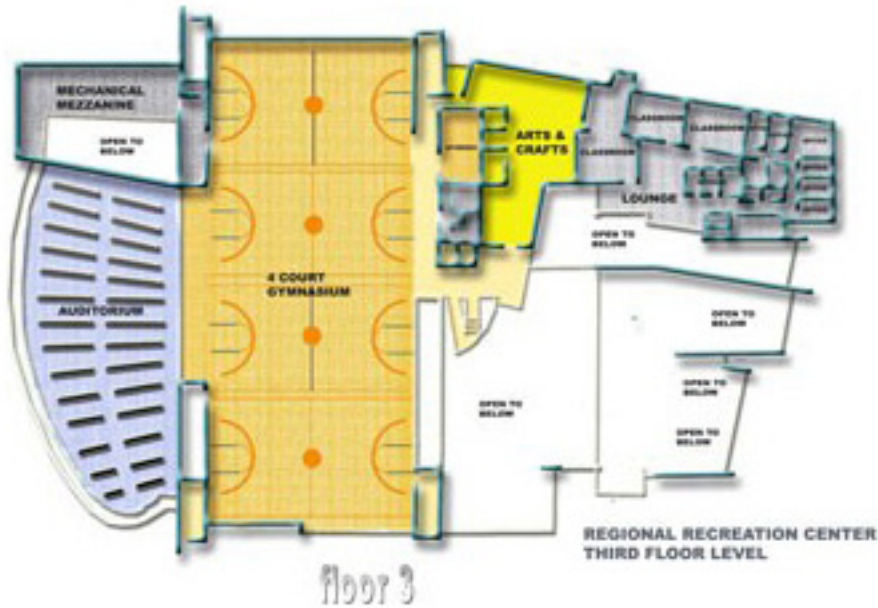
# Regional Recreation Center Prototype

## General Description

The regional recreation center-- the largest type in the City-- is expected to serve and accommodate people from within the city limits. A wide range of recreational and entertainment facilities would be required for a center to fall into this category. A large acreage of land would need to be available to this center prototype to give it adequate potential for future horizontal expansion. There should be a total of 2 regional recreation centers in the City and they should be fee based.

## Attributes

- Should have a minimum useable area of 80,000 square feet
- Should have a balance of age appropriate activities
- Accessible from major roads and freeways
- Street access on at least 2 sides, preferably 4
- Wide range of activities for participation by a large number of people at a time
- May be in a mixed development area
- Should have potential for future expansion of land available to it
- Should have off-street parking and potential for increasing the number of spaces available
- Should have a wide range of spectator-friendly activities
- Should offer sports and fitness programs as well as entertainment and education programs
- Should be fee based

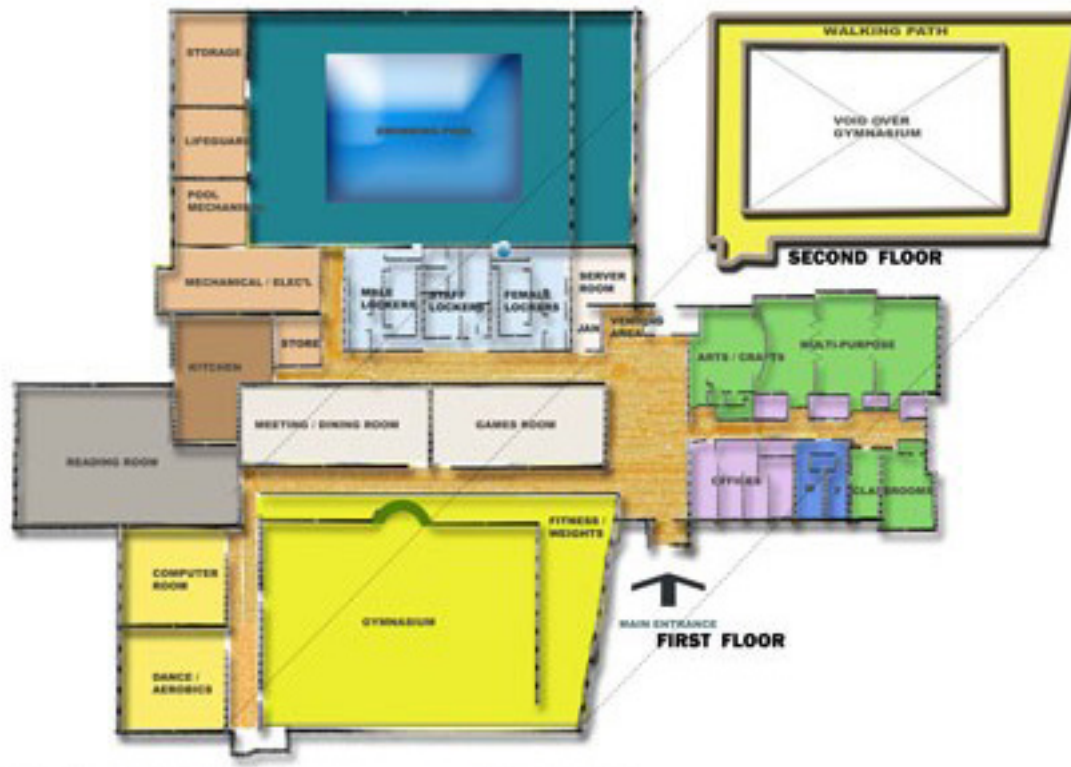


### *Necessary Amenities*

- |                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| • Gymnasium                      | rentable space)                                  | • Staff locker rooms and showers                 |
| • Indoor running track           | • Classrooms                                     | • Phone/ data system                             |
| • Weight room/ Fitness room      | • Meeting rooms/ special functions/ banquet hall | • Closed circuit TV monitoring in lobby          |
| • Competition size swimming pool | • Kitchen  | • Building security lighting outside             |
| • Multi-purpose rooms            | • Common areas, lobby, reception desk, signage   | • First aid station/ office                      |
| • Arts and crafts room           | • Vending area                                   | • Day care center                                |
| • Boxing                         | • Security/ membership card system, office       | • Auditorium/ ticketing office/ supporting areas |
| • Computer room                  | • Restrooms, drinking fountains                  | • Dining area/ eating area/ concessions          |
| • Reading room                   | • Security alarm, fire protection                | • Indoor playscape                               |
| • Games room                     | • Janitorial and storage facilities              |  |
| • Dance/ aerobics                | • ADA accessibility                              |  |
| • Hot tub/ sauna                 | • Lighted parking lot                            |  |
| • Indoor tennis courts           | • Locker rooms and showers                       |  |
| • Offices (including             |  |  |

### *Suggested Amenities*

- Ice skating/ roller hockey skating rink
- Bowling facility
- Indoor soccer



### *Necessary Amenities*

- Gymnasium
- Walking track
- Weight room
- Fitness room
- Swimming pool, office, staff locker room, and showers
- Multi-purpose room/ dining area
- Arts and crafts room
- Computer room
- Reading room
- Games room
- Dance/ aerobics room
- Offices
- Classrooms
- Meeting room(s)
- Kitchen
- Common areas, lobby, reception desk, signage
- Vending area
- Security/ membership card system, office
- Restrooms, drinking fountains
- Security alarm, fire protection
- Janitorial and storage facilities
- ADA accessibility
- Lighted parking lot
- Locker rooms and showers
- Staff locker rooms and showers
- Phone/ data system
- Closed circuit TV monitoring in lobby
- Building security lighting outside
- First aid station/ office
- Placement of bushes/ shrubbery

### *Suggested Amenities*

- Ice skating/ roller skating rink
- Bowling facility
- Boxing
- Indoor tennis courts
- Squash/ Racquetball/ volleyball courts
- Handball courts
- Auditorium
- Day care center

# Community Recreation Center Prototype

## General Description

The community recreation center is the most common type of recreation center in the city. It is found in neighborhoods which are principally residential in character with no other community facilities such as schools and places of worship. It should have some potential to be flexible to expand as the neighborhood character changes.

## Attributes

- Should be in a primarily residential area
- Street access on at least 2 sides, preferably 4
- Pedestrian friendly
- Sufficient off-street parking
- Activities to encourage family participation
- Speculator friendly activities
- Balanced age appropriate activities
- Should have a minimum usable area of 25,000 square feet
- Should be able to accommodate at least 200 people at a time
- Single-level building preferably



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION

While parkland is often treated as an inherent good, if it is not well maintained with up-to-date amenities, residents begin to consider parks as part of the larger problem of blight across the city. Chapter III includes techniques for using parks as a means to stabilize whole neighborhoods, particularly when vacant lots line the park property. Furthermore, the past ten years have demonstrated how much can happen to a neighborhood on a tipping point during that time. This plan intends to offer strategies for places where immediate investment is needed as a strategy to stabilize neighborhoods rather than ten years from now.

Throughout the planning process, members of the team have collaborated with advisors from the City's Jobs and Economy Team to ensure that our vision for the parks and recreation centers aligns with the broader economic strategy for the city. The Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan focuses heavily on population density, the number of youth, and the number of seniors living around the parks as a driving concern for recreation access. As certain neighborhoods begin to stabilize after decades of decline, special emphasis is placed on these areas to ensure that parks and recreation centers support the stabilization process. When blighted homes are removed but a blighted, poorly maintained park remains, it detracts from the overall efforts of that community and the hard work that has gone into its stabilization. Conversely, a well-maintained park with appropriate amenities is a crucial building block for that neighborhood's revitalization.

As new, large-scale developments begin to occur, this plan seeks to ensure that those areas include sufficient park space. Plans for additional park space can bolster the quality of the redevelopment project while simultaneously securing a public benefit for the residents in the area. As this plan suggests, several Detroit Public School sites have been transferred to city ownership and can be strategically converted in developing areas as a means of guaranteeing even more park space. Understanding the economic direction of the City is critical to making sure that the parks system

has an active stake in the design and implementation of those developments. This plan offers a strong voice for park advocates to suggest that increased development in an area is not cause for the use of parkland for development but for its long term preservation as public space to enhance surrounding developments.



Parks that line major corridors of Detroit.  
Above: Clark Park along Vernor, Source: LiveDetroit.com  
Palmer Park along Woodward, Source: abeautifuldetroit.wordpress.com

## PARK ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

Figure 2.1 illustrates areas of Detroit where gaps in park access exist. If an area is yellow, it is a quarter mile from the nearest park. If it is red, it is a full half mile or more from the nearest park. However, areas where gaps in park access exist does not directly translate into the need for a park in that area. Some portions of the city are industrial or have a very small population base. Each of the gap areas in this map were carefully assessed to determine need. Recommendations to fill these gaps are included in Chapter III.

City recreation centers are built with the intent of covering a larger portion of the city (a 2.5 mile radius). Figure 2.2 demonstrates two areas of significant need in Districts 4 and 7. To alleviate this gap in service, the Detroit Parks and Recreation Department is working on a plan with Detroit Public Schools to partner for after-school recreation options for residents.

Figure 2.3 and 2.4 show the addition of these DPS after school options for residents along with a smaller radius of impact to evaluate gaps. DPRD should continue to partner with DPS, charter, and private schools to offer a significant reduction of need for recreation centers. While this option satisfies immediate gaps in programming needs for youth, it does not respond to those gaps for adults and seniors. Chapter V: Implementation Goals recommends the building of two recreation centers in these areas should funding become available. Recreation center grant dollars could still be directed to a community recreation center in District 4 and a regional recreation center housed out of Rouge Park to address remaining needs in District 7.

Because improvements to the parks and recreation centers are made on a case-by-case basis, it becomes easy to think about our parks and recreation centers as discrete disconnected units. Yet a connected system of parks can provide opportunities for the improved health of residents, the establishment of green infrastructure, natural corridors for the movement of people and wildlife, and connections across neighborhoods. As the American Planning Association reports: “[c]reating an interconnected system of parks and open space is manifestly more beneficial than creating parks in isolation.” Upon the recommendation of

the University of Michigan’s Ever Green Plan, the 2016 Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan includes consideration of greenway, bike path, and trail proximity between and through parks as part of our prioritization of where to emphasize the maintenance and improvement of parks. The General Services Department continues to play an active role in the Non-Motorized Transportation planning process citywide.

The 2006 Strategic Master Plan often analyzed a cluster of parks as a sign that some or several of them should be repositioned as a cost-savings mechanism. The 2016 plan takes a different approach, recognizing that in some cases, having a cluster of parks is a community asset that works to stabilize the neighborhood. The recommendations chapter offers options for creating “annex” parks that are close to a traditional city park but span a neighborhood, connecting various lots with way-finding and bike paths.

Connectivity is not just the connections between parks, but also includes strategies for connecting the park to its surrounding neighborhood through the Gateway Parks pilot program. Where there is neighborhood stability on one or more sides of the park but not on one particular side, this plan recommends acquiring vacant lots adjacent to the park and taking them over as part of a maintenance and improvement schedule. Chapter III, Strategy II: details a prototype for how to do this, as well as several proposed sites for future connectivity of this sort. For more recommendations related to connectivity, see Chapter IV: Implementation Goals.

These four priorities can help guide Detroit’s parks and recreation system towards becoming a national example of how parks can drive a city’s revitalization process. In the next part of this plan, these priorities are reinforced to determine what types of community improvements to the parks would be most beneficial for all residents.

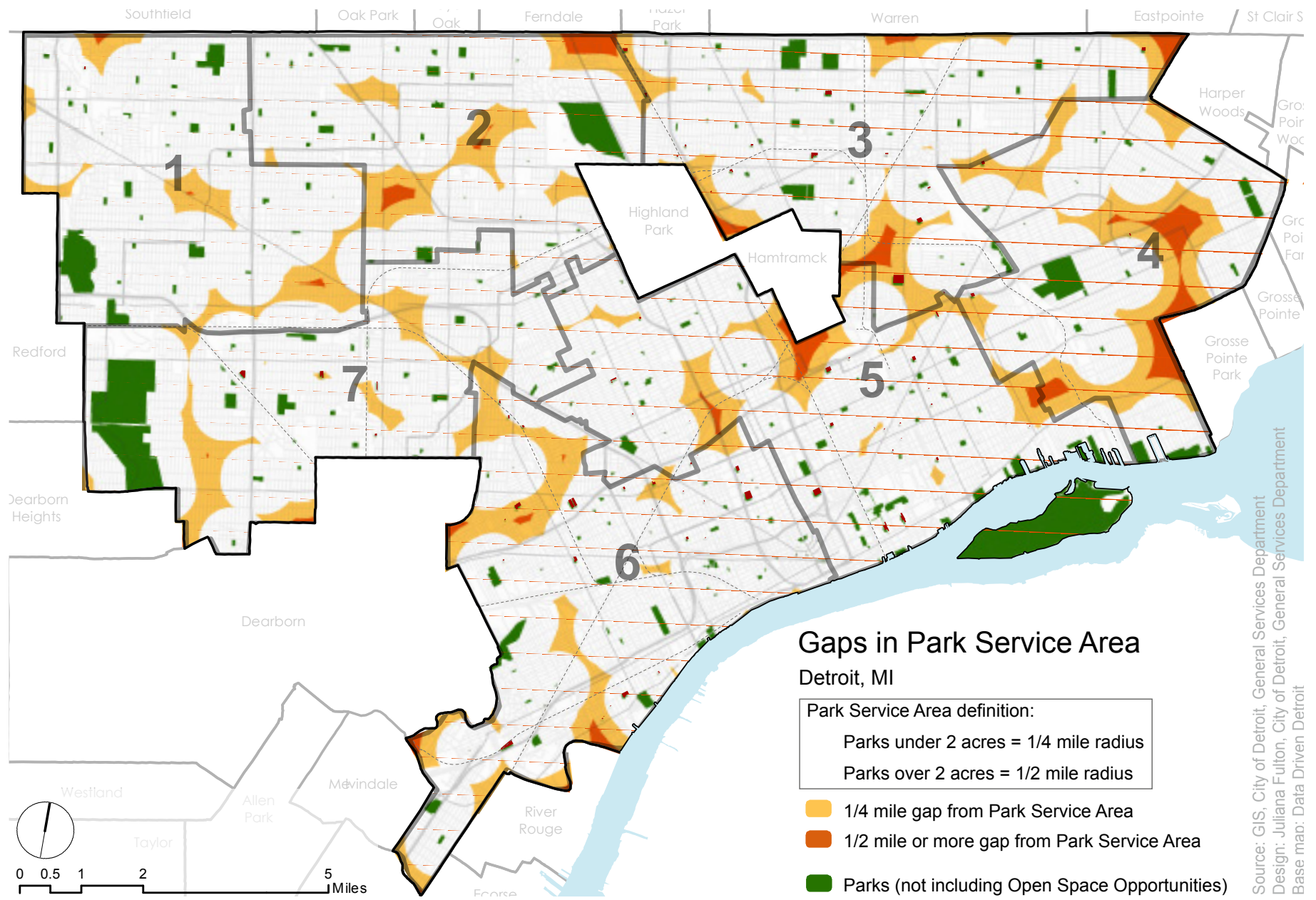


Figure 2.1: Gaps in Park Service Area



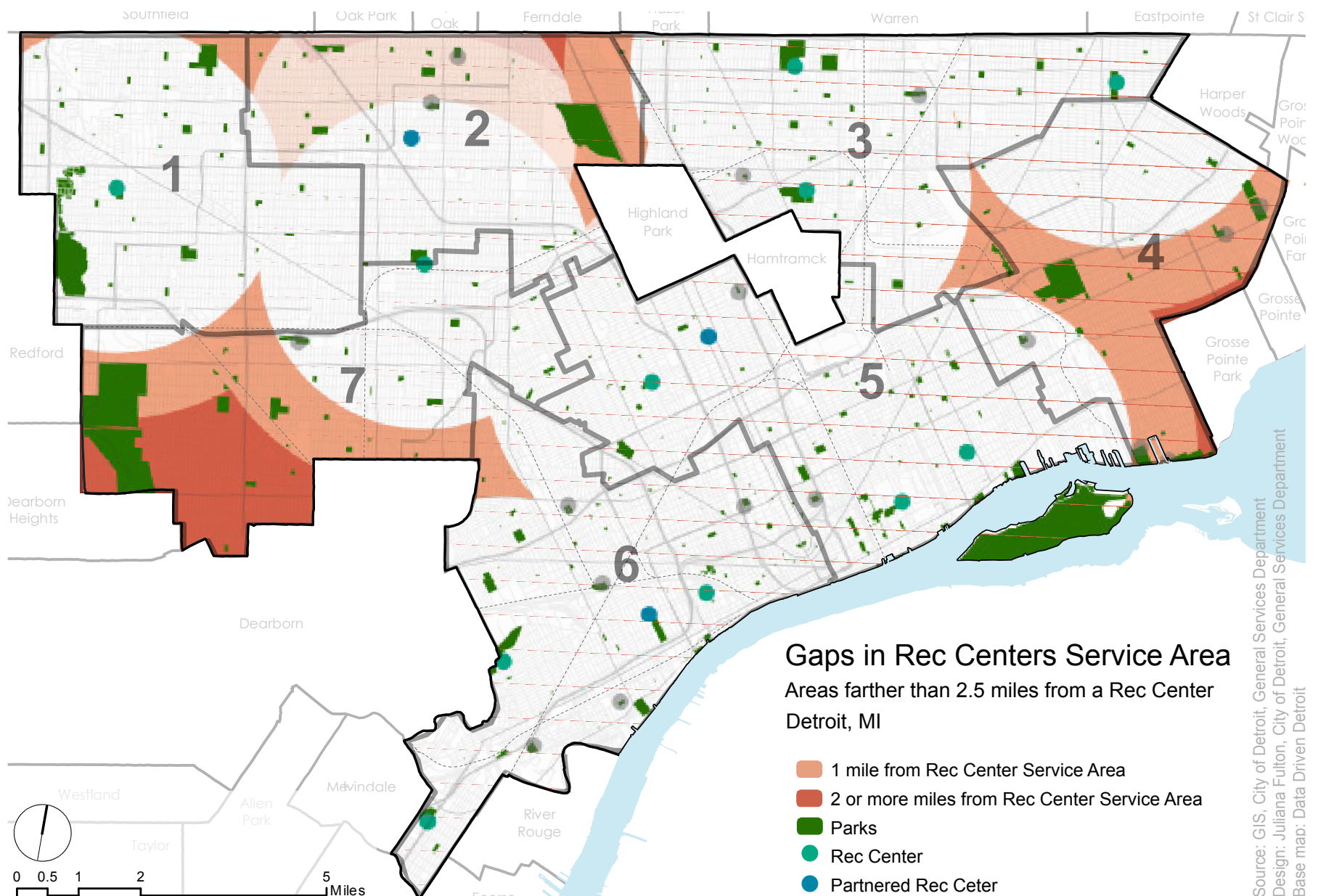


Figure 2.2: Gaps in Recreation Center Service Areas



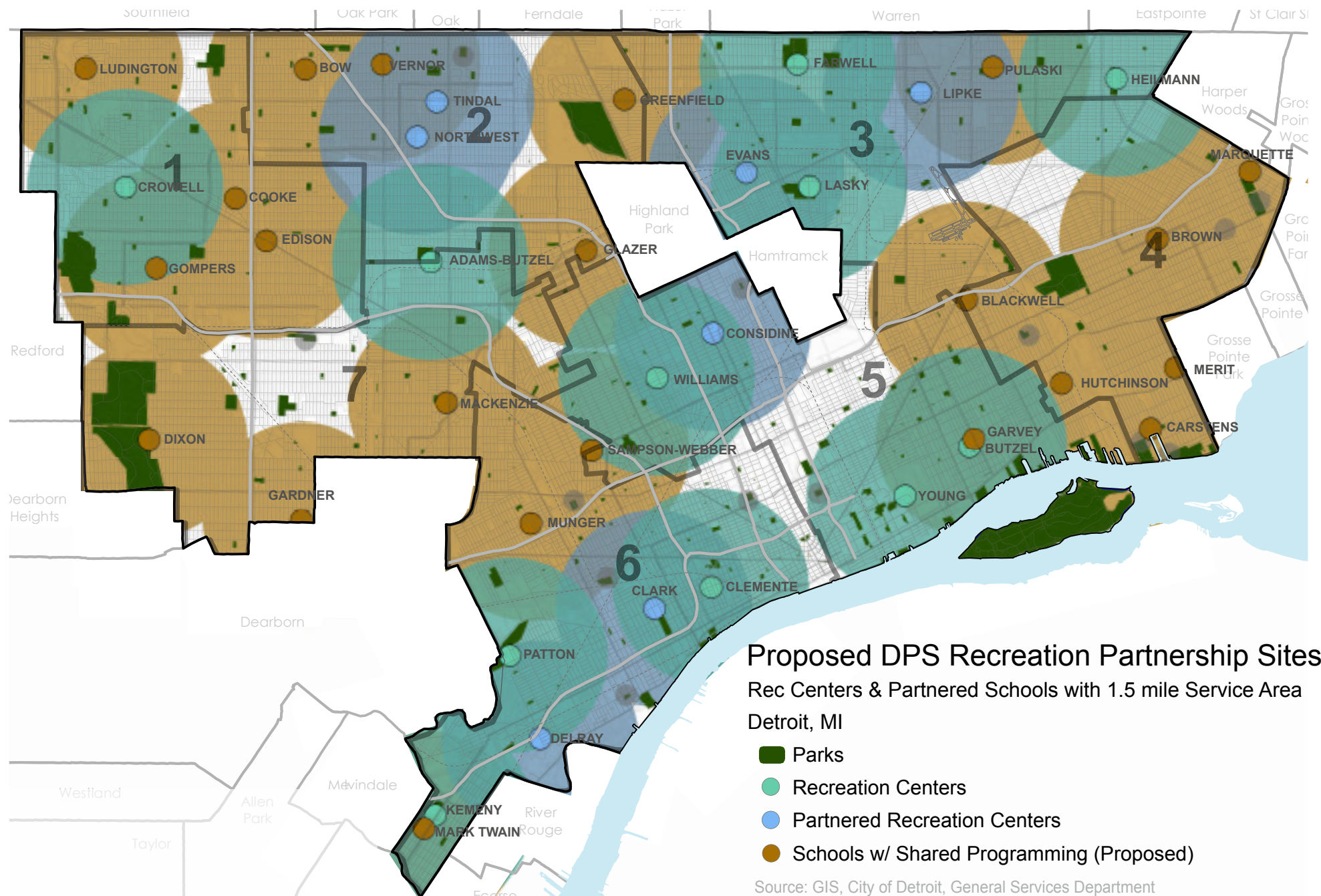


Figure 2.3: Areas where after-school partnerships would improve recreation options

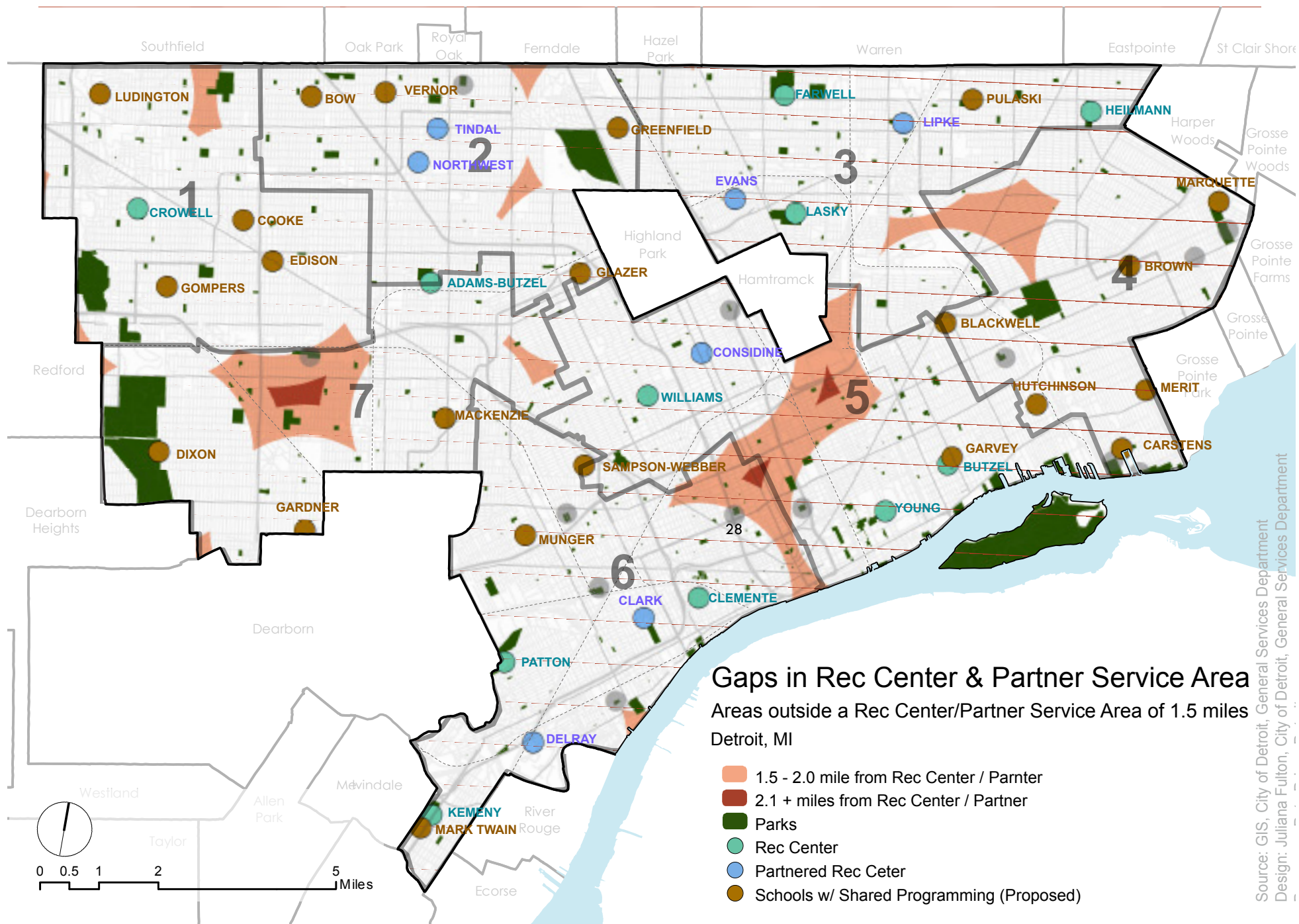


Figure 2.4: Gaps in Recreation Center Service Areas with the addition of DPS partnership programs





### III: PROGRAMS TO ACHIEVE THE PLAN'S VISION







The playground at Adams-Butzel Recreation Center

In 2016, the City's strategy is to retain all City parks and transition certain parks to different types of public space uses. The following strategies will help the Detroit Parks and Recreation and General Services Departments to achieve the principles and goals outlined in the previous chapter. The following is an introduction to each strategy, followed by sub-sections detailing the plans for that strategy:

### **Improving all of our Parks**

- A. Park Improvements
- B. New parks
- C. Relocated parks
- D. Surplused parks

### **Strengthening Neighborhoods through Parks and Recreation**

- A. A Boost to 40 Neighborhood Parks
- B. The Detroit Public Schools Park Acquisitions
- C. Gateway Parks

### **Community Open Spaces**

Figure 3.1: 2006 Strategic Master Plan Recommendations

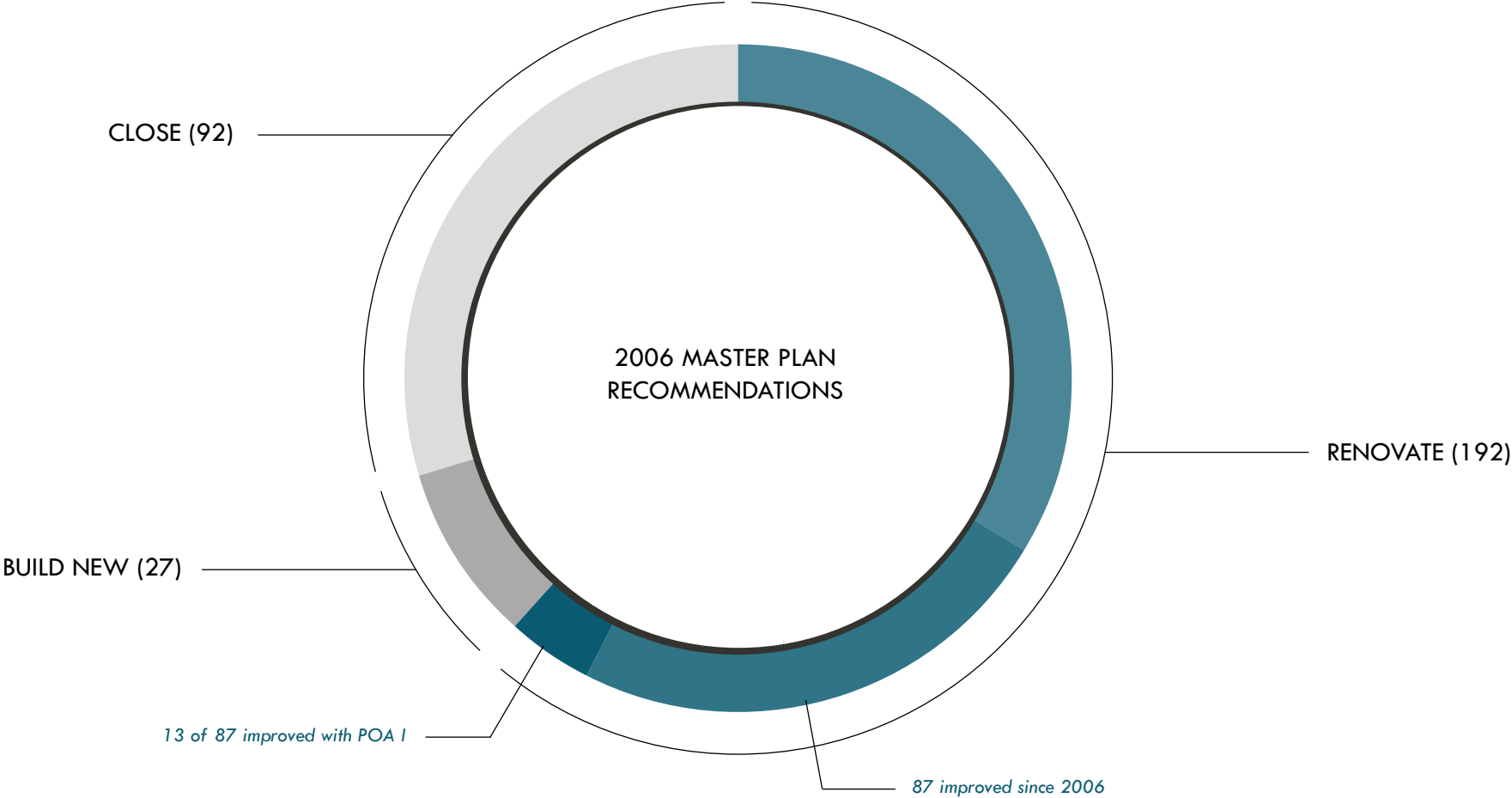


Figure 3.2 Summary of 2016 Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan recommendations for parks

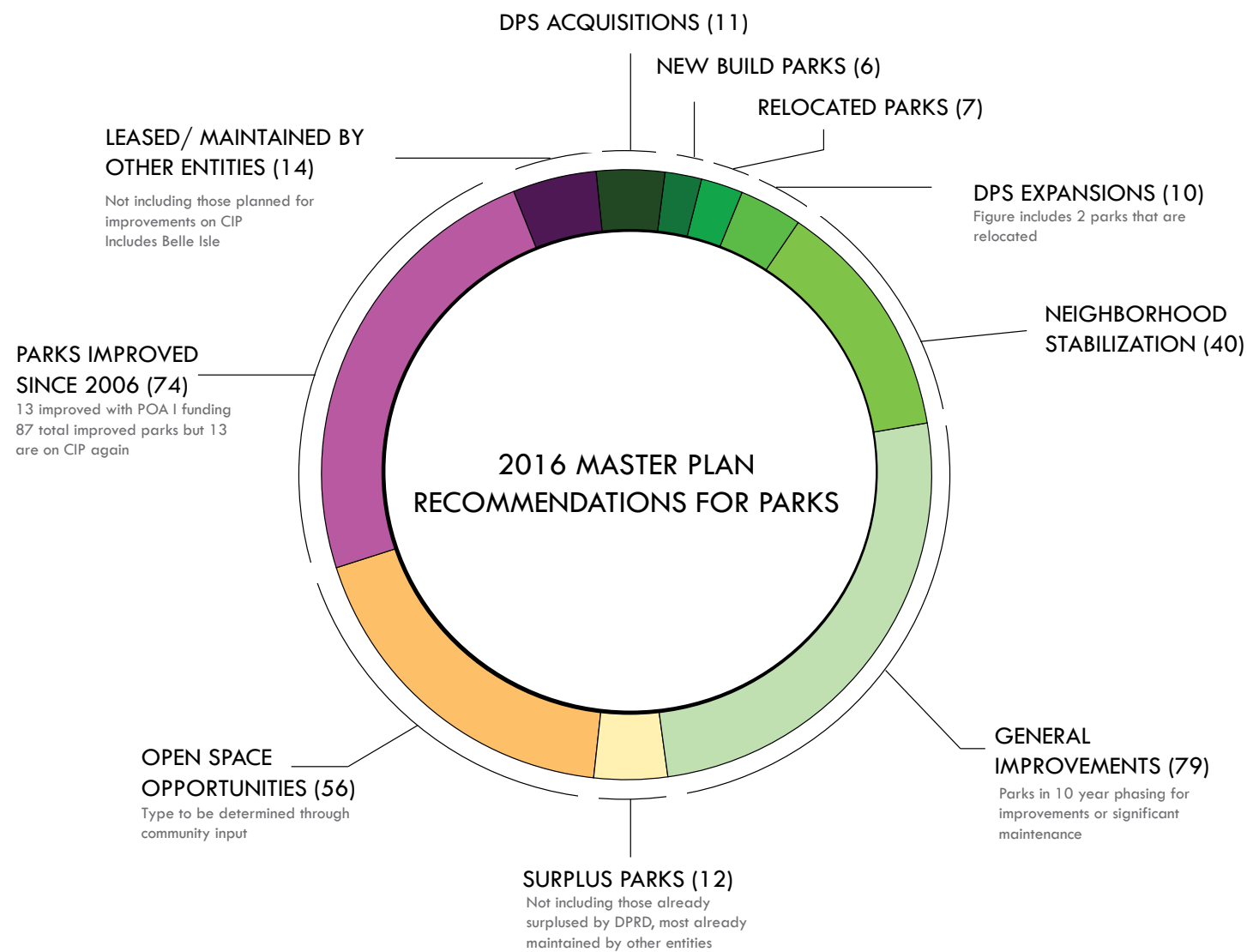
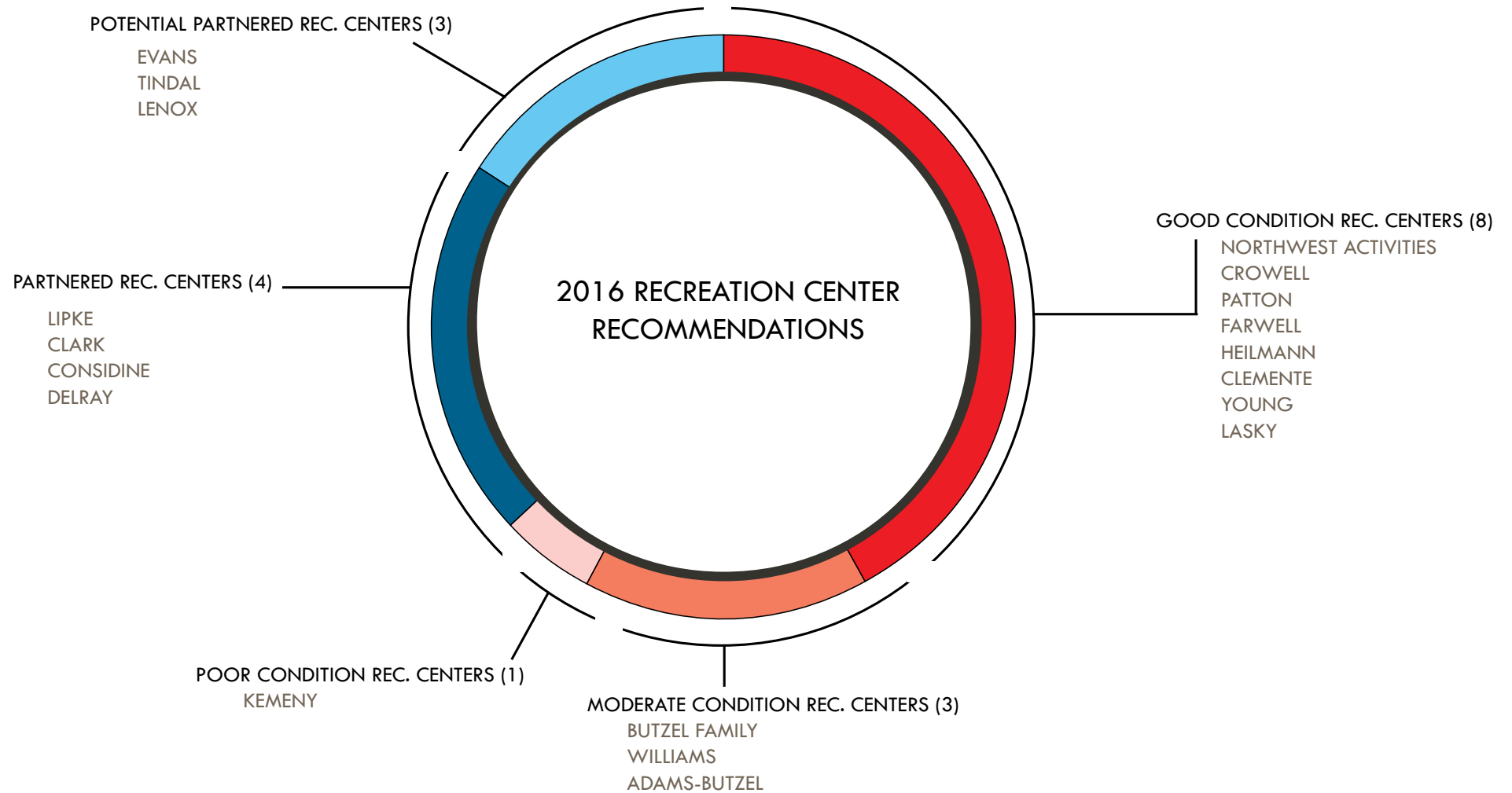
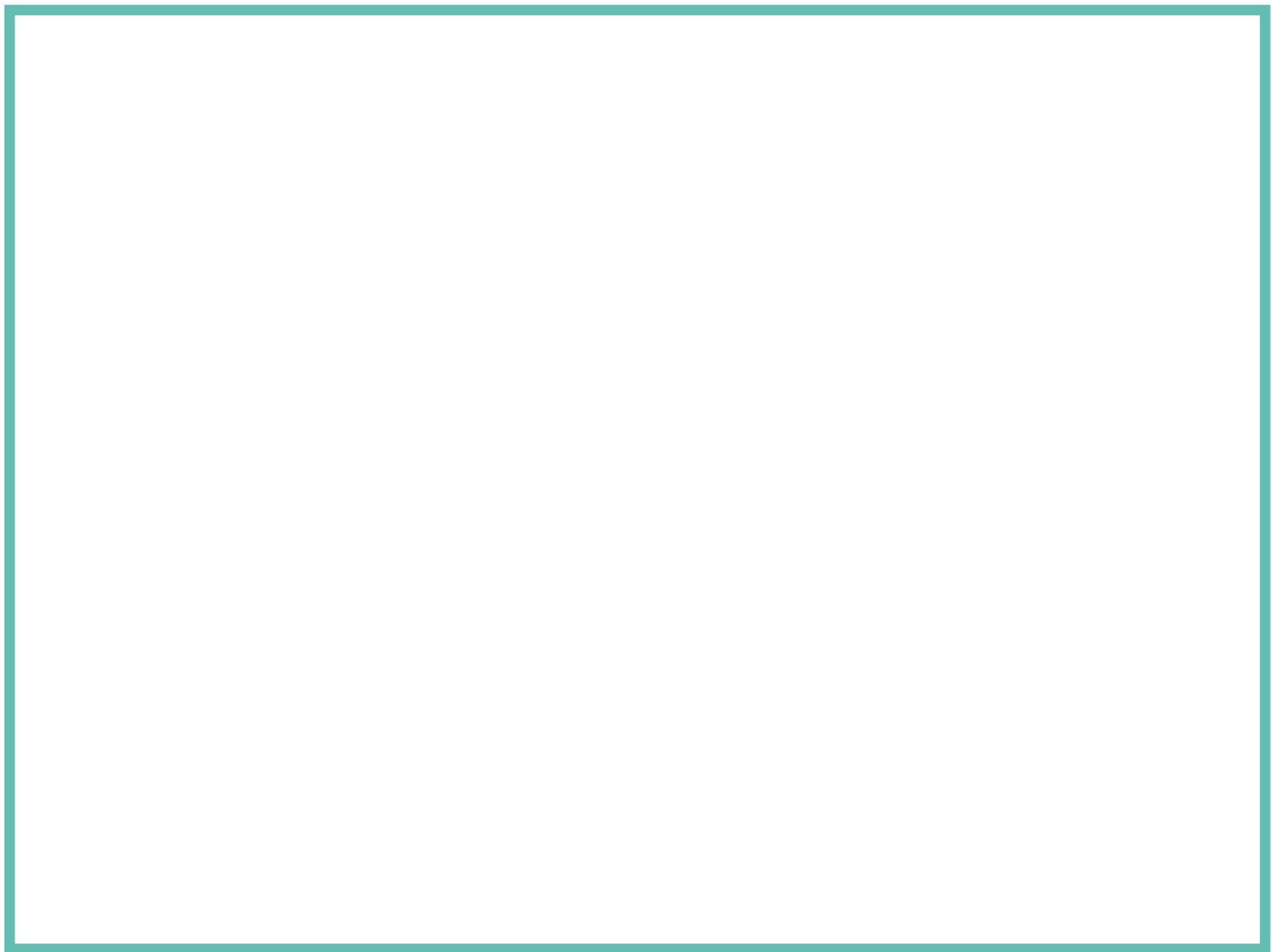


Figure 3.3 Summary of 2016 Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan recommendations for recreation centers









Optimist-Parkgrove

IMPROVING ALL OUR PARKS

## A. GENERAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The capital improvement priorities (CIP) are designed to provide a consistent decision-making framework to guide General Services and Detroit Parks and Recreation Departments' investment. This list excludes any parks that have received improvements since 2006 (unless multiple phases of improvements are necessary), as well as parks classified as Community Open Spaces. The CIP is a list of needs in order to adequately improve and maintain all remaining parks in the system. It also anticipates funding needs for 3 new parks with land already acquired, 3 new parks in need of land acquisitions, and 7 relocated parks that will be moved to bigger and more advantageous locations.

Due to the vast number of parks in the DPRD property roster, a quantitative metric was needed to be able to compare among and across parks. The updated ranking system includes the following metrics and different weights to create a composite metric, which are explained in detail below. This metric for each park is best understood as a starting point, rather than an overall "score" when compared to other parks. Data is from 2013 unless otherwise noted. Each weight is based on a range between 0- 100:

- Population Density- 100
- Senior Population- 80
- Youth Population- 80
- Public Input- 50
- Staff Expertise- 40
- Building Permit Density- 30
- Population Change between 2000-2010- 30
- Greenway Proximity- 20

Other metrics were considered but not included in this plan's quantitative ranking, such as how frequently trash pickup is required at a particular park, whether a park was adopted, and any restrictions to the land for historic reasons.

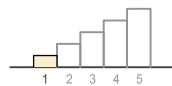
Many of the rankings used to evaluate the parks were on a 0-5 scale. For those that were based on another range (usually because their ranking system correlated with a map), scores were adjusted to fit a 0-5 scale. Data in this plan have been supplemented with qualitative input from residents and administrative experts.

## POPULATION DENSITY

Population density around parks is the most important metric we can use to understand the need for parks and also the viability of a park's use. Using census tracts to determine 2013 population ranges, parks were assigned a 1-4 ranking on the basis of which category they were prescribed on a map of population density by tract. Population density is weighted at 100.

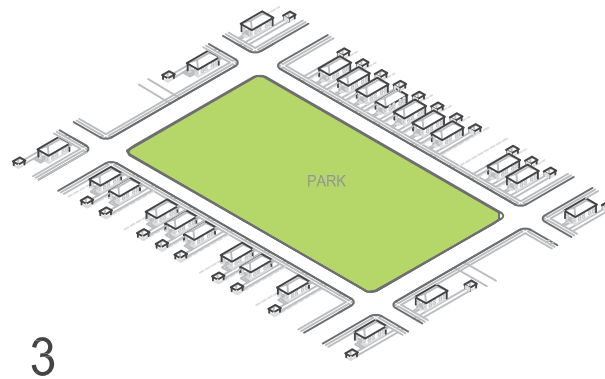


960 - 4,400 (Residents per sq mile)

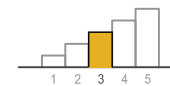


### EXAMPLES:

Lodge  
Hunt  
O'Shea  
Penz

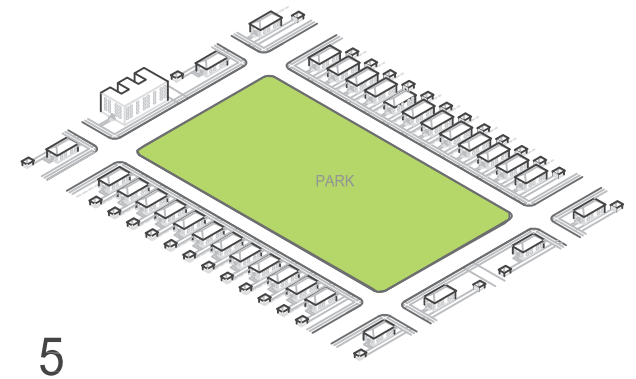


6,301 - 10,000 (Residents per sq mile)

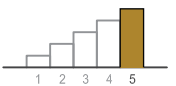


### EXAMPLES:

Rouge  
Pingree  
Balduck  
Louis



10,001 - 14,871 (Residents per sq mile)



### EXAMPLES:

Clark  
Lafayette  
Dues  
Wigle

POPULATION DENSITY: Pair this diagram with Figure 1.5 in Ch. I

WEIGHT: 100

RANGE: 1-5

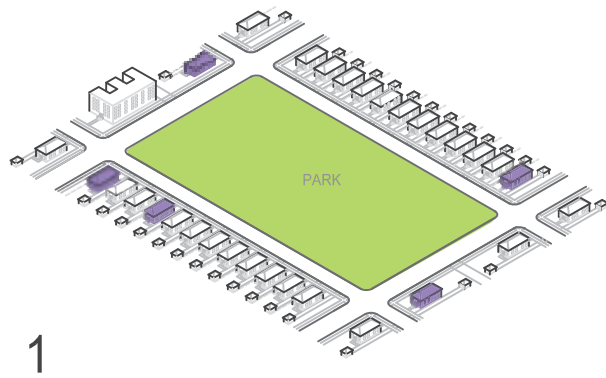
Diagram 1.1 Population Density Metric



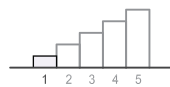
## SENIOR AND YOUTH POPULATIONS

Senior and youth populations were given equal weights of 80 in this plan's evaluation. While Detroit's system of parks and recreation centers is intended to serve all residents, General Services (GSD) and Detroit Parks and Recreation (DPRD) Departments place particular emphasis on seniors and youth. If a neighborhood has a low overall population density but a high population of seniors or youth, this metric allows for that consideration.

The plan also takes these populations into consideration when deciding the amenities for a park. For both measures, the planning team used maps detailing each population range, 1-5 for seniors and 1-4 for youth. Seniors were considered anyone over the age of 60 in 2013, and youth were anyone under the age of 18 in 2013.

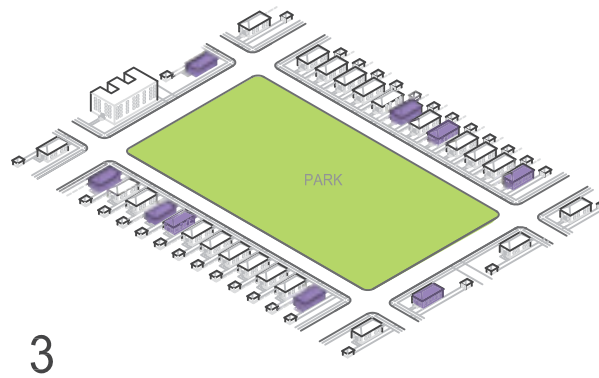


3.7 - 15% (Residents under age 18)

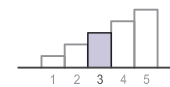


EXAMPLES:

Kronk  
Mariner  
Sak  
Watson

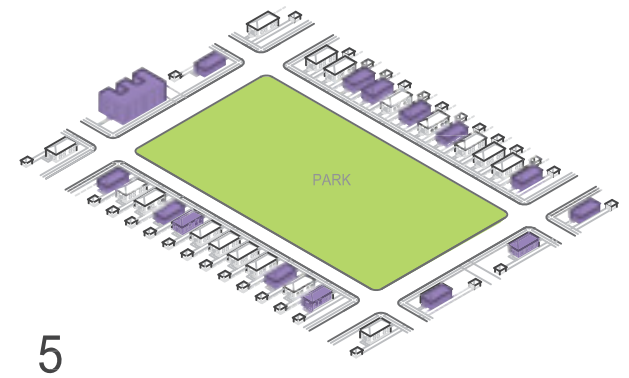


15.1 - 25% (Residents under age 18)

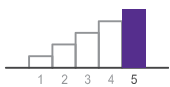


EXAMPLES:

Cass  
Erma Henderson  
Lafayette(s)  
Gabriel Richard



30 - 41.2% (Residents under age 18)



EXAMPLES:

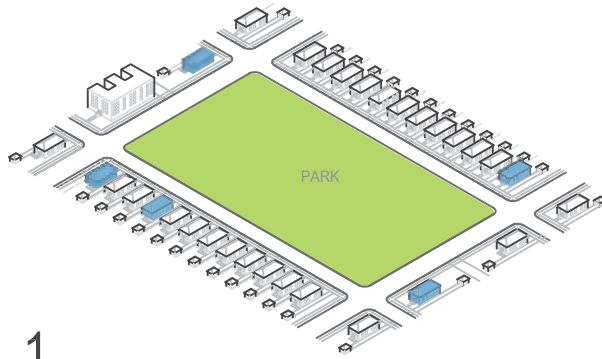
Ryan  
Forest  
Mansfield-Diversey  
Reid

YOUTH POPULATION: Pair this diagram with Figure 1.7 in Ch. I

WEIGHT: 80

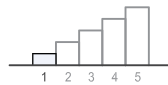
RANGE: 1-5

## SENIOR POPULATION



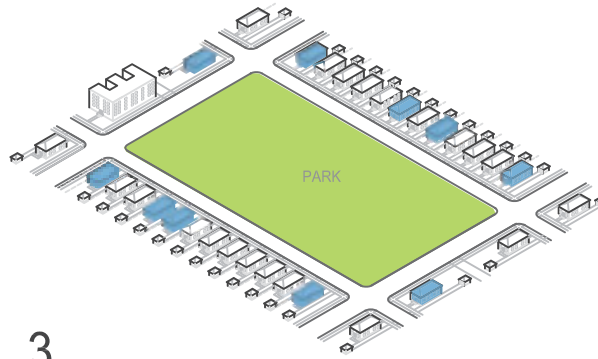
1

4.5 - 15% (Households with Seniors)



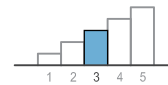
### EXAMPLES:

Heilmann  
Bringard-Boulder  
Malish  
St. Hedwig



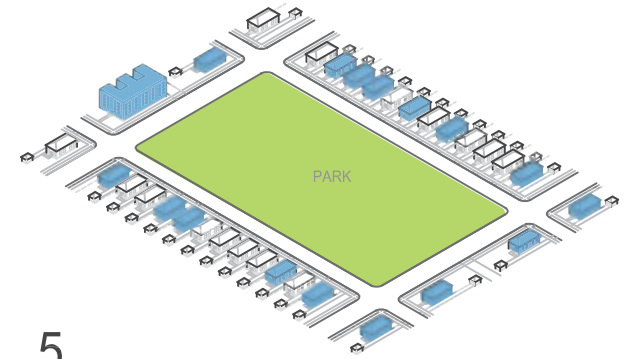
3

20 - 30% (Households with Seniors)



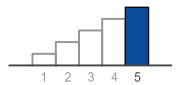
### EXAMPLES:

Delores Bennett  
Voigt  
Hope  
Boyer



5

40 - 62.7% (Households with Seniors)



### EXAMPLES:

O'Hair  
Diack  
Elmwood Central  
Erma Henderson

SENIOR POPULATION: Pair this diagram with Figure 1.8 in Ch. I

WEIGHT: 80

RANGE: 1-5

## PUBLIC INPUT

Public input was measured on a one-to-three scale based on the dot map exercise from public meetings. Residents were asked to prioritize up to three parks in their city council district. If a park received no dots, it was scored with a “0”, 1 dot with a “1”, 2 dots with a “2”, and 3 or more dots with a “3”. These rankings were then converted to a 1-5 scale.

While public input was a tremendously important guide for many of the decisions of this plan, it is weighted here as 50. . Having it weighted at 100 would suggest that those who came to the meetings were representative of the entire public. However, those that did attend provided significant feedback that has been used in the development of this metric.

Figure 3.4 Residents discuss their local park context

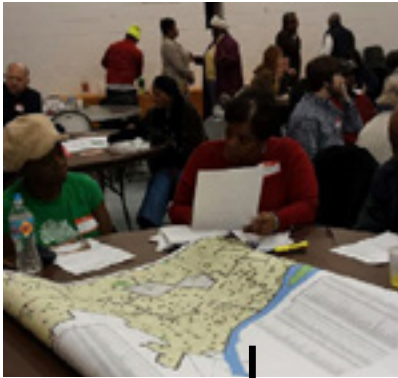
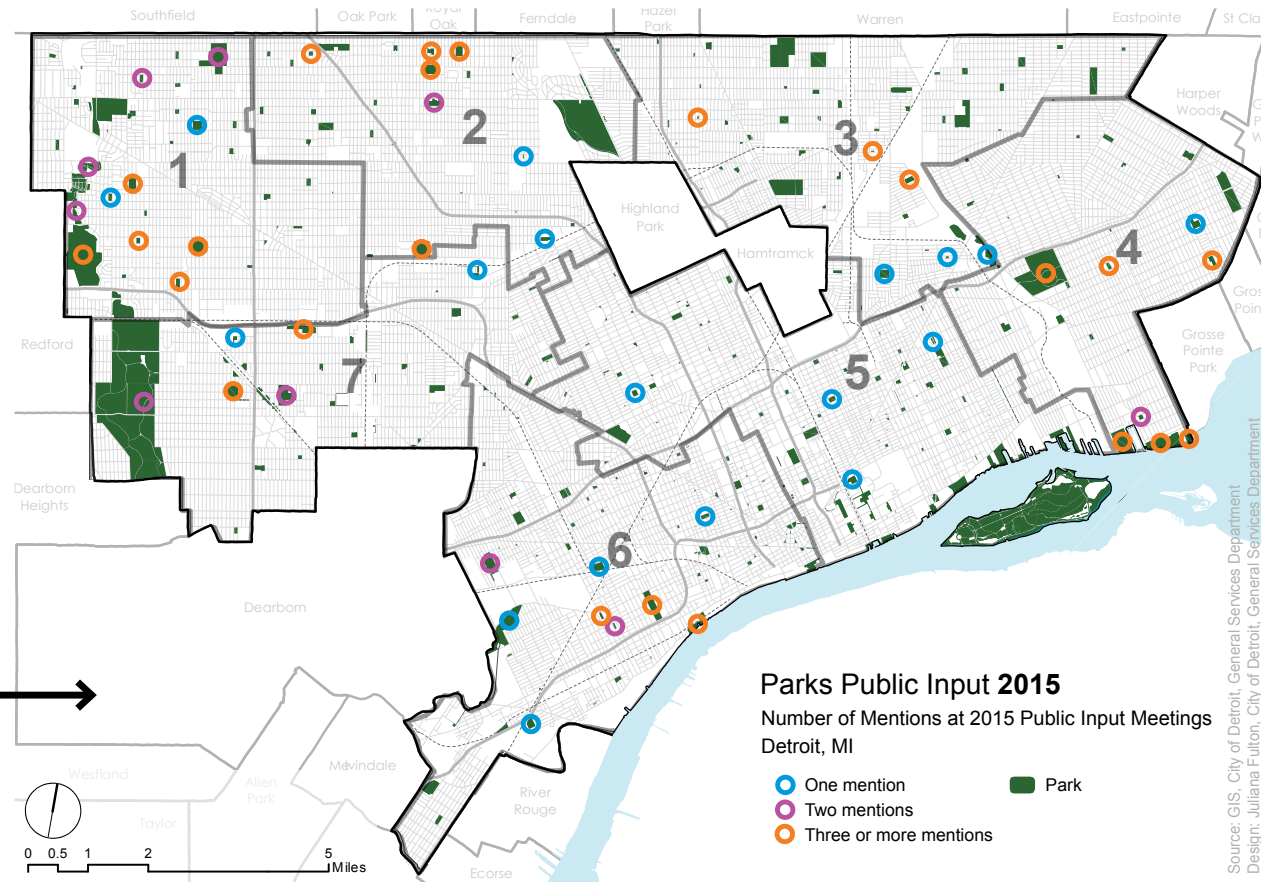


Figure 3.5 Residents vote on their top three park priorities for improvements



Figure 3.6 Public input is incorporated into the plan



PUBLIC INPUT: See Ch. II, Section I for more details on public input.

WEIGHT: 50

RANGE: 0-5

## STAFF EXPERTISE

A qualitative metric was developed to encapsulate the wide reaching expertise of those who have worked in the parks for decades. Interviews were conducted with members of the landscape design unit, ground maintenance team, and recreation experts. In those meetings, members of the planning team shared information about public input to prioritize parks as well as demographic data. In each interview, each park in the system was discussed and determined to be in need of improvements (as a low, medium, or high priority), maintenance, or alternative use.

In cases of opposing determinations, an agreement was reached about why a park should be in a particular category. The park was then given a ranking for this metric, whereby 1= not well positioned as a traditional recreation space, 2= maintain, 3= improve (low), 4= improve (medium), and 5= improve (high). Given the invaluable knowledge from staff with years working in the parks, this analytic measure was given a weight of 40.

**Alicia Bradford** - Director, Detroit Parks and Recreation Department

**Brad Dick** - Director, General Services Department

**Trina Tucker** - Superintendent of Ground Maintenance (has since retired)

**Angela Hipps** - Manager I, Floriculture, Vacant Lots, GSD

**Rosemary Edwards** - Park Development Manager, GSD

**Sue Norander** - General Manager, Detroit Parks and Recreation Department

**Vincent Anwunah** - AICP General Manager, GSD

**Tim Karl** - Chief Landscape Architect, GSD

**Mike Jacobs** - Landscape Designer, GSD

**Farhat Chaudry** - Landscape Designer, GSD

---

WEIGHT: 40

RANGE: 1-5

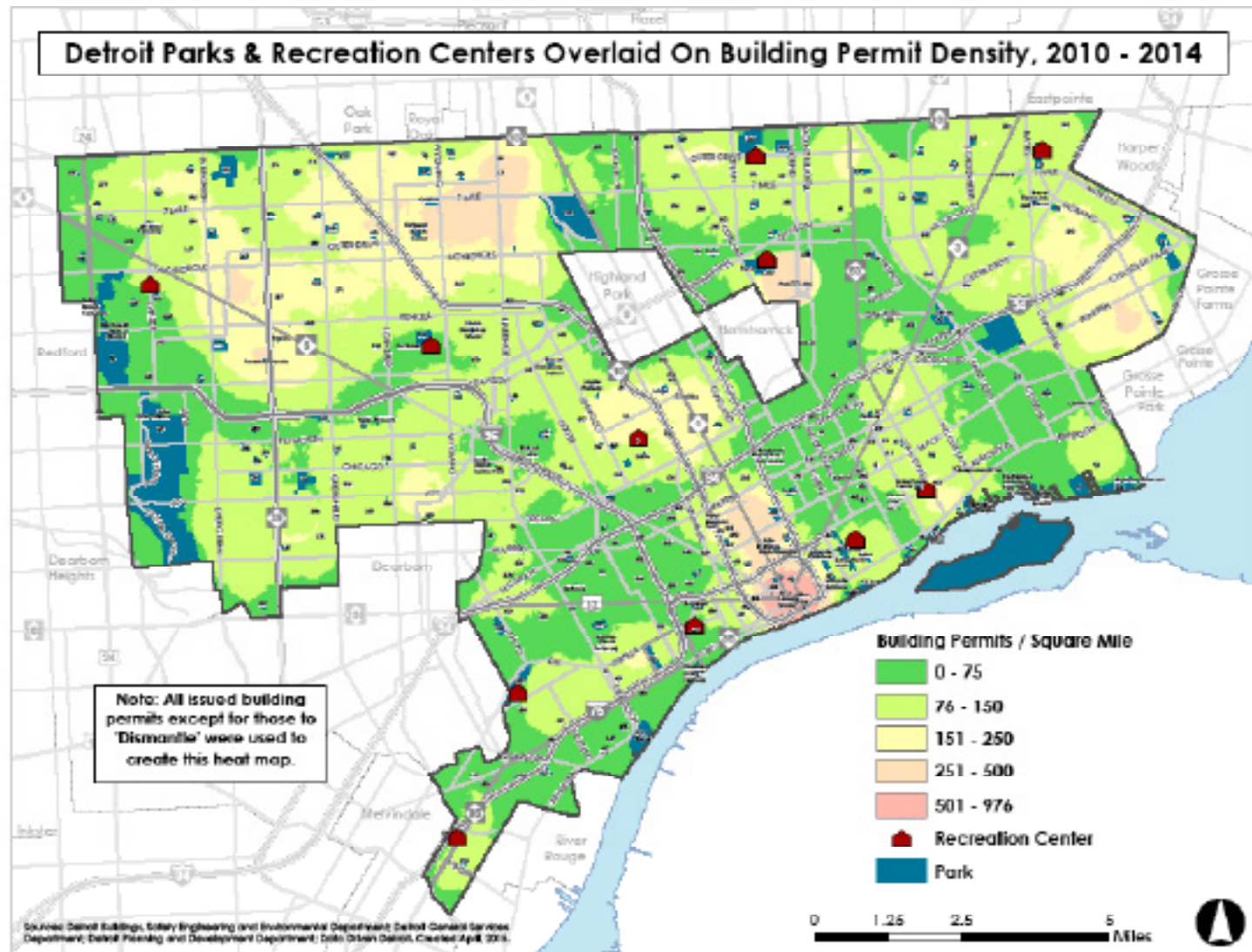


## BUILDING PERMIT DENSITY

The Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan team worked with Data Driven Detroit to develop a heat map representing building permit density across the city and in relation to parks and recreation centers. See Figure 1.9. This did not include demolitions. Parks were given a 1-5 ranking according to which range they were part of on this map. This measure was weighted at 30. Very few areas of Detroit fell outside of the lowest two ranges of permit density, and while this factor is important to note, the planning team agreed that parks should not be disadvantaged as a result of this lower ranking.

**BUILDING PERMIT DENSITY:** This map, created by Data Driven Detroit for the purposes of this plan, can also be found as Figure 1.9 of Ch. I

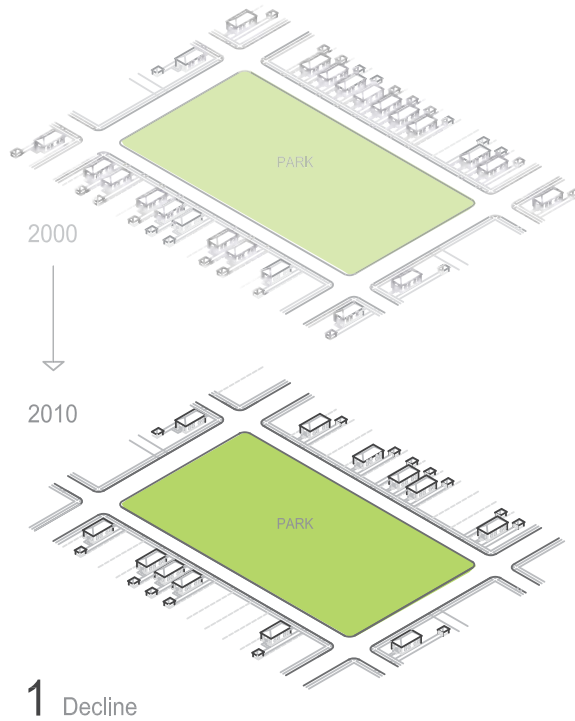
**WEIGHT:** 30  
**RANGE:** 1-5



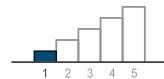
## POPULATION CHANGE BETWEEN 2000 AND 2010

This plan utilizes population change between census years to estimate population trends across the city. Parks were assigned a ranking based on population changes, which were then translated

into a 1-5 ranking for the purposes of this measurement and weighted at 30 out of a possible 100. While overall, many of these trends will continue possibly to be true for the 10-year time frame for the remainder of this plan's use, population change was weighted at 30, because parks may be able to provide a stabilizing presence in areas of population loss.

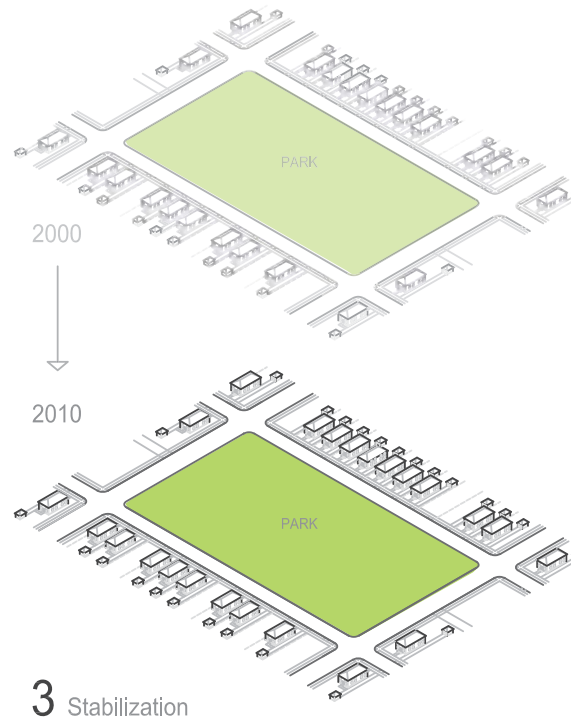


-76.6 to -50% (Population Change)

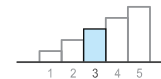


EXAMPLES:

Perrien  
Hunt  
Fletcher  
Lodge

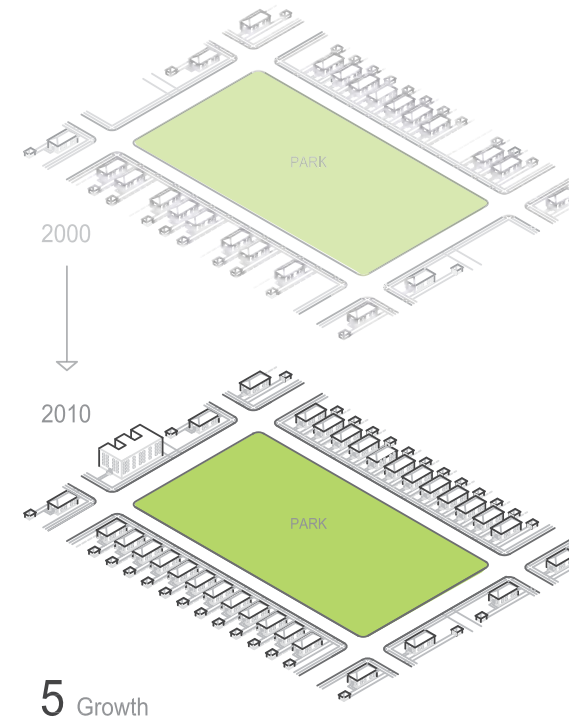


-19 to 0% (Population change)

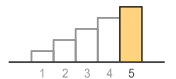


EXAMPLES:

Rouge  
Pingree  
Balduck  
Louis



+1 to 50% (Population change)



EXAMPLES:

Riverside  
Maheras-Gentry  
Comstock  
Stanton

POPULATION CHANGE: Pair this diagram with Figure 1.4 of Ch.I

WEIGHT: 30

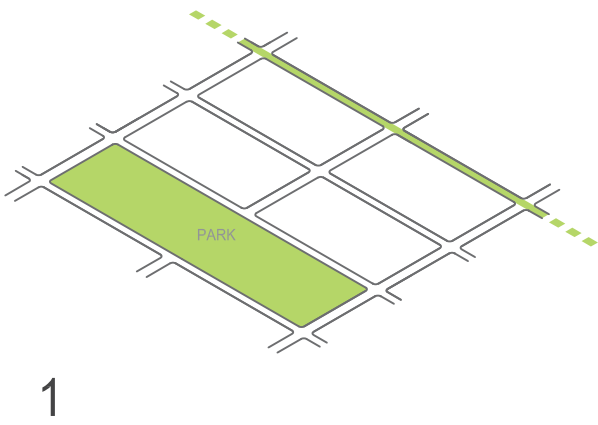
RANGE: 1-5

Diagram 1.4 Population Change Metric

# GREENWAY PROXIMITY

GSD and DPRD collaborated with the Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering Division and the Detroit Greenways Coalition to understand connectivity between parks and greenways. This plan utilized a map of the Non-Motorized Transportation Network that includes present greenways and future planned greenways to determine rated proximity. Parks that are within two blocks of a greenway were rated “1”, parks 1 block from a greenway were rated “2”, and parks directly on a greenway were

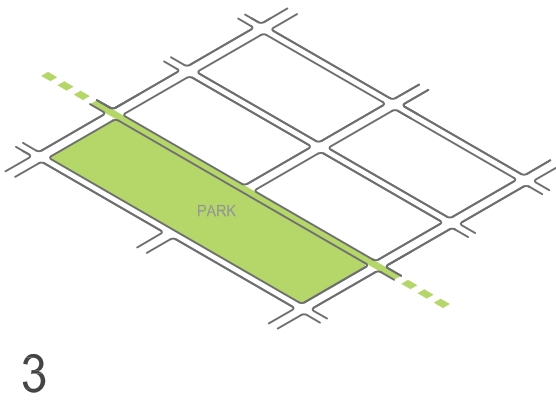
rated “3”. If parks intersected with two greenways they were given a “4” and three greenways they were given a “5”. Whereas the 2006 ranking includes any number above 5, for the purposes of the metric, parks with a score higher than 5 originally were given a “5” in this plan. Ranking was weighted at 20, mostly because while it is an important consideration on a park-by-park basis, there is no guarantee that some of these corridors will be developed in the future.



Park two blocks from greenway

Proximity	Count
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

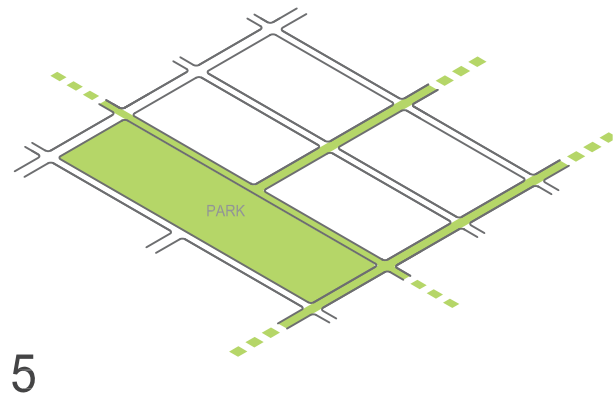
- EXAMPLES:
- Delores Bennett
  - Peck
  - Messmer
  - Vernor



Park intersected with greenway

Proximity	Count
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

- EXAMPLES:
- Balduck
  - Varier
  - Young
  - Wish-Egan



Park intersected with three greenways

Proximity	Count
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

- EXAMPLES:
- Savage
  - Roosevelt
  - Dueweke
  - Bishop

GREENWAY PROXIMITY: This plan utilized the map of the Non-motorized Transportation network that includes present greenways and future planned greenways to determined rated proximity. Parks within two blocks of a greenway were rated “1”, parks one block away were rated “2” and parks directly on a greenway were rated “3”. If parks intersect one or more they were rated “4” or “5” respectively. The greenways map can be found in Appendix A of the plan.

WEIGHT: 20  
RANGE: 0-5

## USING THE RANKING SYSTEM

After developing this weighting system, all park evaluations were summed and generated scores between 6 and 20, with 20 being the highest overall. These rankings provide an important evaluation tool for thinking about all the city's parks cumulatively. Beyond ranking priorities for improvements, this tool will help shape the types of improvements and amenities going into the parks in the future on the basis of what these categories tell us about who lives around the park, how connected it is, and what the local context is like.

To a great extent, community input and administrative input have aligned with the ranking that this data tool creates. However, this tool is not intended to replace ongoing community engagement or be the single determinant for a park's future.

The ranking system cannot account for all dimensions that should be considered when prioritizing one of Detroit's parks. For example, parks along the Detroit River are prioritized in this

plan and seen as a citywide asset to all Detroit residents as well as regional neighbors. Certain parks may rank higher than others using this ranking system, but may not be considered for improvements because they recently received improvements or are close to another park receiving improvements.

The 2016 Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan notes that priorities must always be determined with a balanced consideration of four dimensions: neighborhood character, facility condition, facility capacity, and opportunities to expand or strengthen a park. This planning process considers all four dimensions as well as other considerations detailed above.

Developing capital improvements priorities for recreation centers is a more straightforward than the parks. All recreation centers should be updated according to their equipment and amenity needs, and because there is a smaller number of centers than there are parks, this process was more focused on the date of last improvements than specific strategies for neighborhood improvement. Each of the recreation centers was visited as part of the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan, where a member of the GSD staff spoke with DPRD facility managers and toured each center. Details from those visits can be found in Appendix C: Updated Recreation Center Condition and Capacity Reports.

The PRIP team then worked with Buildings and Maintenance staff to better understand the overall budgetary needs for capital improvements to the recreation centers. Below is a synthesis of this process.

The full Capital Improvements Priorities list as well as the metrics for all other parks can be found in Appendix A of this plan. Each phase has parks of varying sizes and rotates in order of City Council District, which is listed in parentheses. Detroit's largest parks (Palmer, Chandler, Fort Wayne, and Rouge) appear multiple times in the capital improvement priorities as they require continual improvements. The first two phases of the Capital Improvements Program focus heavily on neighborhood park strategies detailed in the second program, Strengthening Neighborhoods.



# RECREATION CENTER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

## SUMMARY OF NEEDS

Please see Appendix A for a more detailed explanation of costs

Recreation Center	Address	Square Ft.	Year Dedicated/ Built	Existing Condition	Proposed Potential Improvements
Butzel Family	7737 Kercheval	40,500	1975	Moderate	\$3,000,000
Williams	8431 Rosa Parks	48,500	1982	Moderate	\$3,500,000
Lasky	13200 Fenelon	17,600	1938 (ren.2012)	Good	\$750,000
Young	2751 Robert Bradby Drive	38,900	1980	Good	\$2,600,000
Adams Butzel	10500 Lyndon	77,700	1981	Moderate	\$3,250,000
Farwell	2711 East Outer Drive	24,000	2003	Good	\$1,500,000
Heilmann	19601 Crusade	33,617	2006	Good	\$1,031,250
Clemente	2631 Bagley	17,400	1978 (ren. 2002)	Good	\$656,250
Patton	2301 Woodmere	35,000	1950 (ren. 2006)	Good	\$1,000,000
Crowell	16630 Lasher	15,900	1975 (ren. 2012)	Good	\$500,000
Kemeny	2260 S. Fort	16,300	1958	Fair	\$10,000,000

# PHASE ONE

## NEIGHBORHOOD 40

District	Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
1	Simmons	3.60	19.1	N		\$500,000
1	Fields	4.00	17.9	N		\$250,000
1	Marx	4.17	15.8	N		\$350,000
1	Hackett	3.18	15.1	N		\$400,000
1	Cook	2.77	14.2	N		\$400,000
1	Reid	1.23	13.7	N		\$150,000
2	Bale	3.64	17.8	N		\$300,000
2	Liuzzo	2.49	16.7	N		\$500,000
2	Wells	3.89	16.1	N		\$250,000
2	Diack	3.49	15.9	Y		\$400,000
2	Gorham	3.13	14.4	N		\$200,000
2	Varier	3.10	14.4	N		\$125,000
2	Clinton (DPS-Transfer)	4.07	11.7	N		\$200,000
3	Calimera	4.42	15.2	N		\$250,000
3	Marruso	5.39	15.2	Y		\$200,000
3	Yakisch	1.55	14.7	N		\$200,000
3	Collins	1.64	14.6	Y		\$450,000
3	Luce-St. Louis	2.19	12.6	N		\$200,000
3	Syracuse	3.78	12.3	N		\$250,000
4	Hansen	2.20	16.1	Y		\$300,000
4	O'Brien	1.45	14.2	N		\$250,000
4	Brewer (DPS-Transfer)	3.20	13.9	N		\$200,000
5	Latham	2.96	15.1	N		\$250,000
5	Gordon	1.08	14.6	N		\$250,000
5	Stewart (DPS-Transfer)	5.57	12.7	N		\$300,000
5	Yates	2.36	12.1	N		\$500,000
5	Dueweke	3.73	12.0	N		\$400,000
5	Franklin	3.84	10.2	N		\$400,000
6	Boyer	1.77	19.8	N	Y	\$300,000
6	Scripps	1.25	15.3	N		\$400,000
6	Sak	1.13	14.5	N		\$200,000
6	Szafraniec	2.05	14.3	N		\$225,000
6	30th-Herbert	1.04	14.3	N		\$200,000
6	Nagel	4.70	11.5	N		\$200,000
7	Cross / Tireman-Littlefield	1.65	17.1	Y		\$175,000
7	Mansfield-Diversey	1.82	16.5	N		\$300,000
7	Doan	2.90	13.3	N		\$300,000
7	Greene	3.49	11.4	Y		\$200,000
7	Richard Allen (Nardin)	5.18	11.4	N		\$250,000
7	Phelps	3.99	10.3	N		\$250,000
PHASE 1 TOTAL						\$11,425,000

## PHASE TWO

District	Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Capital Improvement Phase	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
1	Stoepel No. 1	29.31	16.8	Y	2	Y	\$600,000
1	O'Hair	78.44	11.3	Y	2	Y	\$600,000
2	Van Antwerp	18.18	14.5	Y	2		\$300,000
2	Palmer	281.29	11.9	Y	2, 6, 10		\$1,000,000
3	Farwell	90.23	15.7	Y	2		\$500,000
4	Maheras	52.68	15.9	Y	2		\$1,000,000
4	Chandler	200.39	15.6	Y	2, 6, 10		\$1,000,000
4	Mariner	7.16	13.7	Y	2		\$125,000
5	Pingree	18.55	16.5	Y	2		\$200,000
5	Lafayette Plaisance	12.98	15.9	Y	2		\$150,000
6	Riverside	19.96	13.1	N	2, 4		\$3,000,000
6	Higgins	2.90	12.2	N	2		\$300,000
7	Rouge Park	1181.39	19.1	Y	2, 6, 10		\$1,500,000
	<b>PHASE 2 TOTAL</b>						<b>\$10,275,000</b>

## PHASE THREE

District	Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Capital Improvement Phase	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
1	Clarita-Stout	2.81	14.1	N	3		\$125,000
1	Heckel	6.04	11.3	N	3		\$400,000
2	Gmeiner	10.21	18.6	N	3		\$400,000
2	Hardstein	2.68	18.3	Y	3		\$350,000
3	Dequindre-Grixdale	0.73	15.3	N	3		\$300,000
3	Krainz	9.72	14.1	Y	3		\$200,000
4	Corrigan	3.24	17.2	Y	3		\$300,000
4	Alfred Brush Ford	33.88	16.7	Y	3		\$2,000,000
5	Young	22.96	18.8	Y	3		\$425,000
5	Collingwood	5.04	10.2	N	3		\$200,000
6	Time Square-Clifford	0.09	15.6	N	3		\$150,000
6	25th-Toledo (relocated)	0.17	15.2	N	3		\$250,000
6	Woodbridge	1.19	14.3	N	3		\$500,000
7	Stein	25.26	17.0	Y	3		\$1,250,000
7	Littlefield	11.10	15.9	Y	3		\$550,000
2, 4, 5, 7	DPS SITES - Priority 1 (7 Parks)				3		\$2,875,000
	<b>PHASE 3 TOTAL</b>						<b>\$10,275,000</b>



## PHASE FOUR

District	Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Capital Improvement Phase	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
1	Outer Drive-Burgess	2.69	11.2	N	4		\$400,000
2	Peterson	17.00	16.4	Y	4		\$500,000
2	University District New Park			N	4		\$250,000
3	Hasse-Emery	0.89	13.0	N	4		\$150,000
4	Balduck	58.31	16.3	Y	4	Y	\$750,000
4	Brookins	1.57	16.0	Y	4		\$350,000
4	Morningside New Park			N	4		\$250,000
5	Elmwood-Central	15.51	19.3	N	4		\$1,500,000
5	Dues	7.45	17.3	N	4		\$250,000
6	Clark	29.82	20.0	Y	4		\$2,000,000
6	Kemeny	21.92	14.6	N	4		\$500,000
6	Riverside	19.96	13.1	N	2, 4		\$2,000,000
7	Intervale-Roselawn	2.79	15.5	N	4		\$350,000
7	Zussman	2.38	14.5	Y	4		\$300,000
3, 6, 7	DPS SITES - Priority 2 (4 Parks)				4		\$1,275,000
	<b>PHASE 4 TOTAL</b>						<b>\$10,825,000</b>

## PHASE FIVE

District	Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Capital Improvement Phase	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
1	Markulis	3.84	11.3	N	5		\$75,000
2	Belden-Santa Maria	0.34	15.4	Y	5	Y	\$200,000
2	Marygrove New Park			N	5		\$250,000
3	Marx-Remington	0.83	12.8	N	5		\$300,000
3	Josefiak	0.67	12.2	Y	5		\$250,000
4	Riverfront-Lakewood (Lake-wood East)	28.13	15.2	N	5		\$2,000,000
4	Roseberry-Promenade	0.40	13.3	Y	5		\$300,000
5	Owen	8.26	14.1	N	5		\$600,000
6	Romanowski	26.04	14.4	Y	5	Y	\$500,000
6	Patton	84.99	13.4	Y	5		\$1,500,000
6	Hecla (relocated)	0.39	11.8	N	5		\$300,000
6	Roosevelt	9.45	9.0	N	5		\$3,000,000
7	Fitzpatrick	2.88	12.7	N	5		\$150,000
7	Fitzpatrick-Warwick	1.73	13.7	Y	5		\$200,000
	<b>PHASE 5 TOTAL</b>						<b>\$9,625,000</b>

## PHASE SIX

District	Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Capital Improvement Phase	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
1	Seven Mile-Appleton	1.38	11.1	N	6		\$125,000
1	Midland-Bentler (Kiwanis No. 2)	1.64	10.2	N	6		\$150,000
2	Quincy-Midland	0.35	13.2	N	6		\$100,000
2	Palmer	281.29	11.9	Y	2, 6, 10		\$1,000,000
3	Karaniewski	0.76	11.4	N	6		\$150,000
3	Heilmann Playfield	10.99	11.3	Y	6		\$300,000
4	Chandler	200.39	15.6	Y	2, 6, 10		\$1,000,000
4	Sasser	9.54	12.1	N	6		\$250,000
5	Erma Henderson	33.66	13.5	Y	6		\$2,000,000
5	Forest	27.33	10.3	Y	6		\$550,000
6	St. Hedwig	13.56	13.9	N	6	Y	\$350,000
6	Fort Wayne	80.75	11.0	N	6, 10		\$1,000,000
6	Vermont-Alexandrine (relocated)	0.16	10.6	N	6		\$150,000
7	Rouge Park	1181.39	19.1	Y	2, 6, 10		\$1,500,000
7	Belton-Mark Twain	3.82	11.3	N	6		\$250,000
7	McCabe	6.69	10.2	N	6		\$500,000
	<b>PHASE 6 TOTAL</b>						<b>\$9,375,000</b>

## PHASE SEVEN

District	Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Capital Improvement Phase	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
1	Eliza Howell	251.00	9.9	N	7		\$750,000
1	Riordan	3.90	9.9	N	7		\$200,000
2	Sherwood	0.26	12.8	N	7		\$150,000
3	Lasky	17.14	11.2	N	7		\$400,000
3	Dorais	35.70	10.7	Y	7	Y	\$425,000
4	Troester-Hayes	1.20	9.8	N	7		\$150,000
5	Griffin	2.73	9.9	N	7		\$200,000
5	Perrien	4.58	9.4	N	7		\$350,000
6	Savage	2.21	11.2	N	7		\$150,000
6	Clemente	0.15	10.3	N	7		\$100,000
6	Hart Plaza	9.47	7.7	Y	7, 9		\$5,000,000
7	Weaver-Penrod	3.77	8.7	N	7		\$250,000
1, 2, 4, 6, 7	DPS SITES - Priority 3 (6 Parks)				7		\$1,875,000
	<b>PHASE 7 TOTAL</b>						<b>\$10,000,000</b>



## PHASE EIGHT

District	Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Capital Improvement Phase	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
1	Grayfield-Glenhurst	2.40	9.9	N	8		\$150,000
3	Syracuse-Hildale	1.71	10.3	N	8		\$150,000
4	Glenfield-Lannett	0.68	8.6	N	8		\$150,000
5	Kercheval-Parker	0.09	9.4	N	8		\$300,000
5	Mollicone	2.19	9.3	N	8		\$250,000
6	Macomb	0.71	8.0	N	8		\$150,000
6	Cass	3.99	7.7	N	9		\$2,000,000
7	Outer Drive-Fullerton (Dolson)	56.39	8.2	N	8		\$350,000
1, 3, 7	DPS SITES - Priority 4 (4 Parks)				8		\$1,875,000
	Continuous Improvements TBD				8, 9, 10		\$5,000,000
	<b>PHASE 8 TOTAL</b>						<b>\$10,375,000</b>

## PHASE NINE

District	Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Capital Improvement Phase	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
1	Rockdale-Kendall	1.70	7.2	N	9		\$100,000
3	Twork	0.54	9.1	N	9		\$50,000
3	Conant-Minnesota	2.63	6.8	Y	9		\$100,000
5	Calvert	0.43	8.2	N	9		\$200,000
5	Johnson	2.03	8.2	N	9		\$200,000
5	Warren-Meldrum	3.51	7.7	N	9		\$50,000
6	4th-Charlotte	0.33	10.0	N	9	Y	\$350,000
6	Hart Plaza	9.47	7.7	Y	7, 9		\$5,000,000
	Continuous Improvements TBD				8, 9, 10		\$5,000,000
	<b>PHASE 9 TOTAL</b>						<b>\$11,050,000</b>

## PHASE TEN

District	Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Capital Improvement Phase	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
2	Palmer	281.29	11.9	Y	2, 6, 10		\$1,000,000
3	Evans	2.52	6.1	N	10		\$200,000
4	Chandler	200.39	15.6	Y	2, 6, 10		\$1,000,000
5	Voigt	6.79	7.7	N	10		\$500,000
5	Ames	0.99	7.6	N	10		\$250,000
5	St. Anthony	1.72	7.1	N	10		\$150,000
5	Calcara	1.33	7.0	N	10		\$100,000
5	Bradley	2.21	6.6	N	10		\$150,000
6	Fort Wayne	80.75	11.0	N	6, 10		\$1,000,000
7	Rouge Park	1181.39	19.1	Y	2, 6, 10		\$1,500,000
	Continuous Improvements TBD				8, 9, 10		\$5,000,000
	<b>PHASE 10 TOTAL</b>						<b>\$10,850,000</b>

## B. NEW PARKS

During public input meetings, residents expressed a desire to see Detroit's existing parks be improved and well maintained before the creation of additional parks. In general, this is consistent with GSD and DPRD strategies. However, in certain locations it will be beneficial to residents and to the park system if strategic locations are incorporated or park-adjacent properties are annexed. Figure 2.1 in the previous chapter demonstrates key areas to focus park acquisition based on a current lack of park access for residents.

After an more thorough analysis of each of the areas in Figure 3.7, the PRIP recommends 6 new parks on the basis of neighborhood need. Three of these locations already have identified sites for new parks in Southwest Detroit, the Woodbridge neighborhood, and along Collingswood in the North End. GSD and DPRD continue to work with other city agencies to determine an appropriate site for the three new parks in Marygrove, Morningside, and the University District.

As Figure 2.2 demonstrates, Detroit suffers from inadequate recreation center access in two City Council districts: 4 and 7. In addition to the maintenance of existing facilities, this Park Improvement Plan proposes that the Detroit Parks and Recreation Department seek external funding to support the building of two new recreation centers to fill this need. This would include a new recreation center in District 4 and provide a regional recreation center linked with Rouge Park in District 7. Further study is needed to determine the appropriate site for Rouge Park and District 4 recreational amenities. The DPRD is working with Detroit Public Schools to partner in after-school community recreation opportunities on school properties (see Figures 2.3 and 2.4). Once these partnerships become finalized, they will be available on the Department's website.



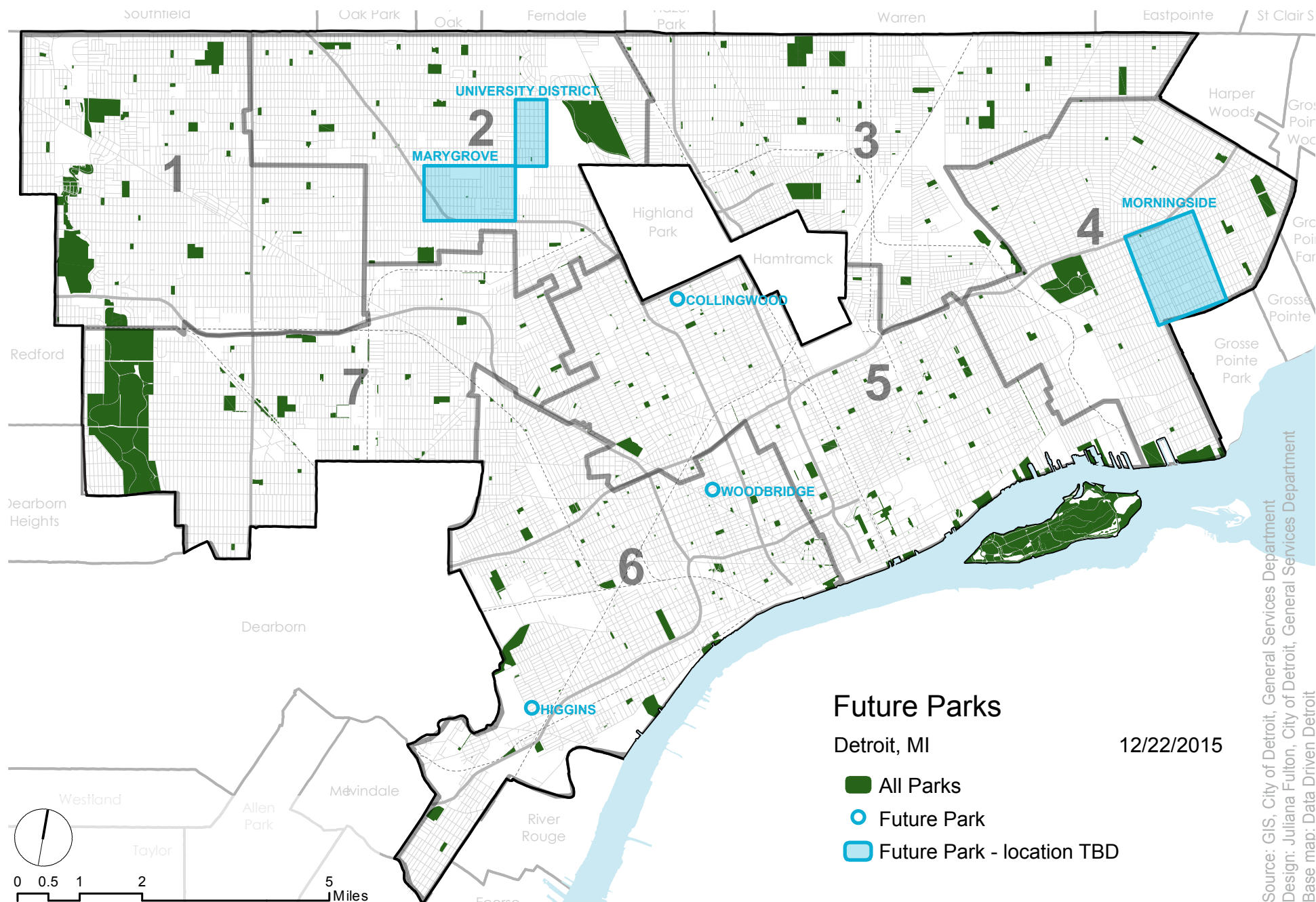


Figure 3.7: Identified areas for new park locations

## C. RELOCATED PARKS

Relocated parks are those parks whereby a new location has already been identified that would be superior to the current park location, either due to increased size, better positionality related to the neighborhood, or moving from a partial to a full block location. Relocated parks will be closed once their new site is opened. The list of relocated parks and their new location are as follows:

Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Adopted / Leased	Deed Restricted	Capital Improvement Phase	Recommendation
15th-Butternut (relocated)	0.07	10.5	N			4	Relocation - Owen (DPS)
25th-Toledo	0.17	15.2	N			3	Relocation - TBD
Dinning (relocated)	0.54	5.9	N			4	Relocation - Sherrill (DPS)
Hecla (relocated)	0.39	11.8	N			5	Relocation - Avery b/w Merrick & Putnam
Sirotkin (relocated)	0.58	7.9	N			4	Relocation - Sherrill (DPS)
Vermont-Alexandrine (relocated)	0.16	10.6	N			6	Relocation - TBD
Wiley (relocated)	0.68	5.5	N		Y	4	Relocation - Sherrill (DPS)



SIROTKIN



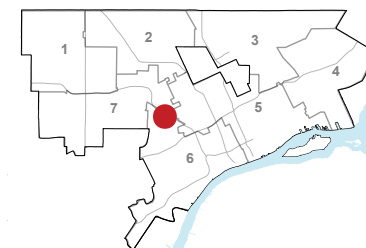
DINNING



WILEY



One example of relocated parks are Sirotkin, Dinning and Wiley. Three small, poorly located parks near industrial areas and along railroad tracks. This plan recommends relocating them to the much larger vacant Sherrill DPS site within the same neighborhood (see following page for details).





# SHERRILL ELEMENTARY

DISTRICT: 6

LOCATION: 7300 Garden

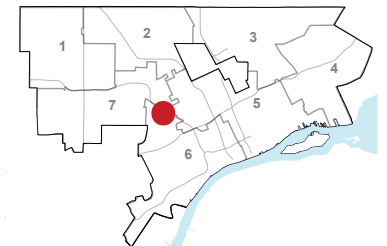
ACRES: 8.30

CONDITION: Building boarded and secure

PLAY EQUIPMENT: Needed



NOTES: Large school is boarded and secure. Neighborhood around school is stable, with a few vacancies. Large lot with good turf, a baseball backstop and fencing around half the perimeter. Playground is gone. Recommend to create a park at this site, relocating Sirotkin, Dining, Wiley parks, as part of the DPS parks strategies (see Strategy 2: Neighborhood Stabilization for more detail or other recommendations of DPS sites for parkland).



## D. SURPLUSSED PARKS

While the 2016 Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan does not include a large number of recommended closures like in 2006, there are a limited number of parks that this plan recommends selling. The majority of these parks are extremely small in lot size. All parks on this list already have an identified buyer and in most cases have been acting as stewards of the property for several years.

Parks	Acres	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Adopted / Leased	Deed Restricted	Recommendation	Details / Comments
Bristol (Ralph Bunche Co-op)	3.21	12.1	N			Surplus	Surrounded by apartment complex
Canfield-Sheridan	0.16	7.9	N	ADOPTED		Surplus	Someone is currently removing the asphalt, size & status of a side lot
Downey	0.84	9.3	N			Surplus	Transfer to surrounding apartments with restriction to maintain as open space
Duplessis	6.22	10.8	N			Surplus	Economic development (Brewster project site), larger park site planned for project
Harper Court	0.21	10.2	N			Surplus	Carbon buffer, size & status of a side lot
Lafayette-St. Aubin	3.42	15.7	N			Surplus	Transfer to surrounding apartments with restriction to maintain as open space
Lumley-Michigan	0.23	12.6	N			Surplus	Size & status of a side lot
Malish	1.12	14.2	N			Surplus	Used by local Boys Club, fenced in and looks privatized
Post-Jefferson	0.09	6.0	N			Surplus	Economic development (bridge plaza)
South Rademacher	3.65	7.0	N			Surplus	Economic development (bridge plaza)
Tarnow-Kirkwood	0.21	14.4	N	ADOPTED		Surplus	Mid-block lot, size & status of a side lot
Wolf	0.68	13.2	N			Surplus	Currently tucked into industrial area, transfer





Ryan Park usage, before and after improvements

# STABILIZING NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGH PARKS AND RECREATION

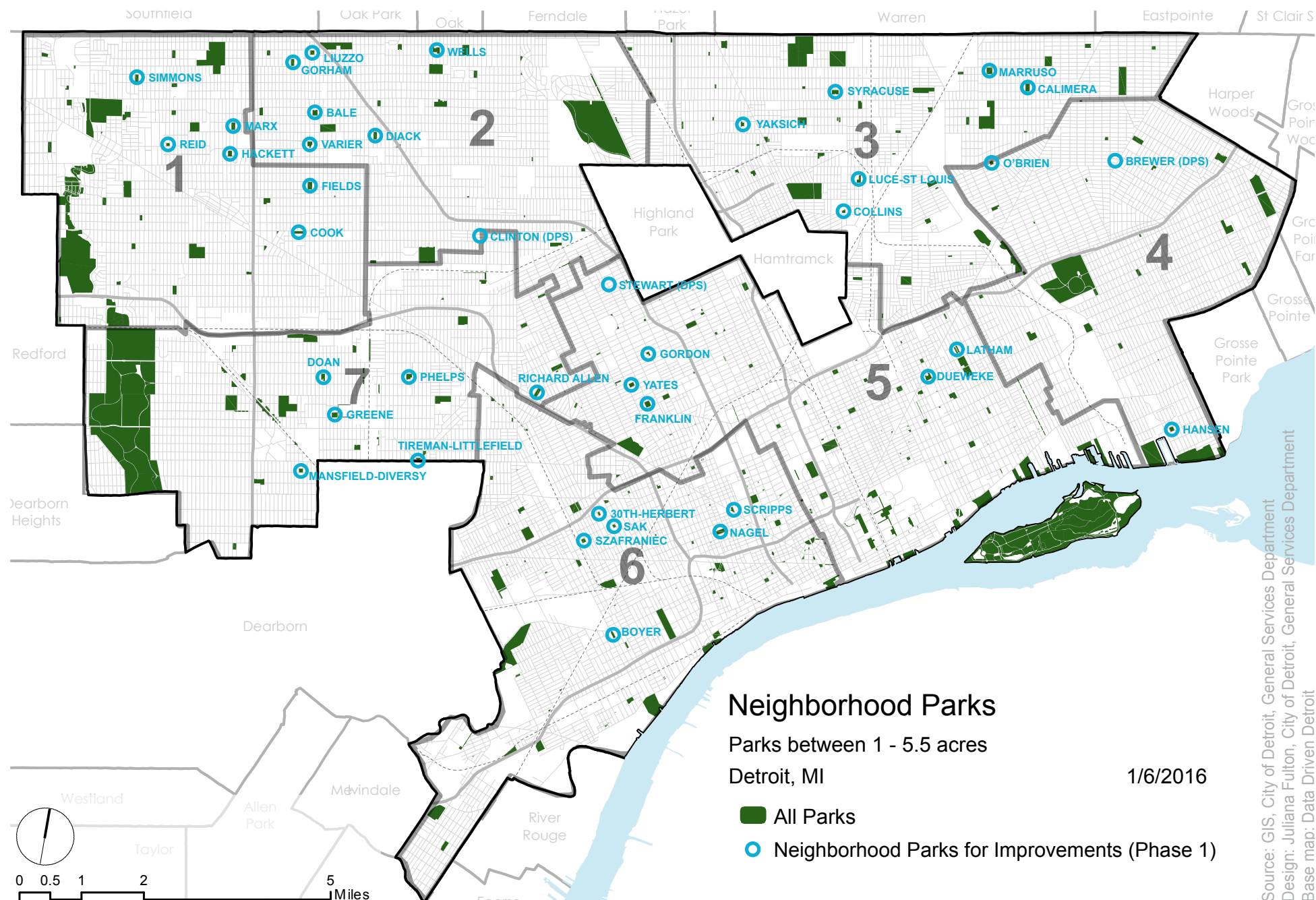
## A. 40 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

In the fall of 2014, the General Services Department utilized funding from the Plan of Adjustment to make an immediate impact on several small (1 to 5.5 acre) neighborhood parks. This investment functioned as a pilot program for a broader neighborhood investment strategy and included the following parks: Lollo, Tuttle, Arthur, Knudsen, Butler, Optimist-Parkgrove, Edmore-Marbud, Wilson, Ryan, and Military-Regular. The neighborhood investment strategy proposed as part of the 2016 Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan recommends an immediate dedication of funds towards 40 neighborhood-level parks. Staff visited all parks between 1 and 5.5 acres to determine areas of highest impact. All improvements are planned to happen over the course of the next two years.

The following pages provide a map (figure 3.8) and list of all parks selected for the 40 neighborhood parks program, along with pictures of their location found in Appendix D. The number of parks is not evenly distributed across districts but rather on the basis of where they would make the largest impact, and should be considered within the broader context of the Capital Improvement Priorities.

The amenities listed in the following pages were written to determine funding needs and will actually be determined with input from community members in the surrounding neighborhood at the time of renovation.

FIGURE 3.8 40 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



# NEIGHBORHOOD PARK METRICS (1-20)

District	Park	Address	Acres	Staff Expertise	Economic Activity (Building Permits)	Population Density (2013)	Population Change (2000 - 2010)	Public Priority	Youth Population	Senior Population	Greenway Proximity	Metric Total	Capital Improvement Phase	Neighborhood Investment Park	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
6	Boyer	6203 W. Vernor	1.77	5	2	3.75	3	5	5	2	5	19.8	1	1	Y	\$300,000
1	Simmons	19450 Chapel	3.60	5	2	3.75	2	3	5	4	0	19.1	1	2		\$500,000
1	Fields	16601 Florence	4.00	5	3	3.75	3	2	5	3	0	17.9	1	3		\$250,000
2	Bale	18673 Winthrop	3.64	5	3	3.75	3	0	5	4	0	17.8	1	4		\$300,000
7	Cross / Tireman-Littlefield	8134 Manor	1.65	5	3	3.75	3	0	4	4	1	17.1	1	5		\$175,000
2	Liuzzo	20053 Winthrop	2.49	5	2	2.5	2	5	4	3	0	16.7	1	6		\$500,000
7	Mansfield-Diversey	7753 Rutherford	1.82	5	2	3.75	3	0	5	3	0	16.5	1	7		\$300,000
2	Wells	20159 Griggs Ave	3.89	5	2	2.5	3	5	4	2	0	16.1	1	8		\$250,000
4	Hansen	542 Drexel	2.20	5	2	2.5	3	3	4	3	0	16.1	1	9		\$300,000
2	Diack	13889 Curtis	3.49	5	3	2.5	3	0	4	4	2	15.9	1	10		\$400,000
1	Marx	18201 Greenview	4.17	5	2	3.75	3	0	4	3	1	15.8	1	11		\$350,000
6	Scripps	3666 W. Grand River	1.25	5	2	2.5	3	2	4	2	5	15.3	1	12		\$400,000
3	Calimera	19493 Joann	4.42	5	2	3.75	2	0	5	2	0	15.2	1	13		\$250,000
3	Marruso	19908 Annott	5.39	5	2	3.75	2	0	5	2	0	15.2	1	14		\$200,000
1	Hackett	17236 Avon	3.18	5	3	2.5	3	0	4	3	3	15.1	1	15		\$400,000
5	Latham	5082 Seneca	2.96	5	3	3.75	2	0	3	3	2	15.1	1	16		\$250,000
3	Yakisch	18160 Anglin	1.55	4	2	3.75	2	0	4	3	0	14.7	1	17		\$200,000
5	Gordon	1935 Atkinson	1.08	5	3	3.75	2	0	4	2	0	14.6	1	18		\$250,000
3	Collins	11618 Alpena	1.64	5	4	1.25	4	0	5	3	0	14.6	1	19		\$450,000
6	Sak	4322 Kinsman	1.13	5	1	2.5	2	0	5	3	1	14.5	1	20		\$200,000



# NEIGHBORHOOD PARK METRICS (21-40)

District	Park	Address	Acres	Staff Expertise	Economic Activity (Building Permits)	Population Density (2013)	Population Change (2000 - 2010)	Public Priority	Youth Population	Senior Population	Greenway Proximity	Metric Total	Capital Improvement Phase	Neighborhood Investment Park	Gateways Expansion	Cost Estimate
2	Gorham	19969 St. Mary	3.13	5	2	2.5	2	0	4	3	3	14.4	1	21		\$200,000
2	Varier	15639 Thatcher	3.10	5	2	2.5	2	0	4	3	3	14.4	1	22		\$125,000
6	Szafraniec	4513 Campbell	2.05	5	1	2.5	2	0	5	3	0	14.3	1	23		\$225,000
6	30th-Herbert	5000 30th	1.04	5	1	2.5	2	0	5	3	0	14.3	1	24		\$200,000
1	Cook	16001 Fenkell	2.77	5	2	3.75	2	0	4	2	0	14.2	1	25		\$400,000
4	O'Brien	11938 E. McNichols	1.45	5	2	3.75	2	0	4	2	0	14.2	1	26		\$250,000
4	Brewer (DPS-Transfer)	12450 Hayes St.	3.20	5	2	2.5	2	0	5	2	1	13.9	1	27		\$200,000
1	Reid	20625 Santa Clara	1.23	5	2	2.5	2	0	4	3	0	13.7	1	28		\$150,000
7	Doan	9946 Prest	2.90	1	2	2.5	3	0	5	3	1	13.3	1	29		\$300,000
5	Stewart (DPS-Transfer)	12701 14th Street	5.57	5	2	2.5	2	0	4	2	0	12.7	1	30		\$300,000
3	Luce-St. Louis	13490 St. Louis	2.19	5	3	3.75	2	0	2	2	0	12.6	1	31		\$200,000
3	Syracuse	19192 Syracuse	3.78	1	2	3.75	2	0	3	3	0	12.3	1	32		\$250,000
5	Yates	2499 Blaine	2.36	5	3	2.5	2	0	3	2	0	12.1	1	33		\$500,000
5	Dueweke	4975 Sheridan	3.73	5	2	2.5	2	0	2	2	5	12.0	1	34		\$400,000
2	Clinton (DPS-Transfer)	8145 Chalfonte St.	4.07	5	2	2.5	2	0	3	2	0	11.7	1	35		\$200,000
6	Nagel	3100 Wabash	4.70	5	1	1.25	3	2	2	2	5	11.5	1	36		\$200,000
7	Greene	9177 Robson	3.49	5	1	2.5	2	0	3	2	0	11.4	1	37		\$200,000
7	Richard Allen (Nardin)	9516 W. Grand River	5.18	5	1	2.5	2	0	3	2	0	11.4	1	38		\$250,000
7	Phelps	9982 Sorrento	3.99	2	2	2.5	2	0	3	2	0	10.3	1	39		\$250,000
5	Franklin	2380 S. LaSalle Blvd.	3.84	5	3	2.5	2	0	2	1	0	10.2	1	40		\$400,000

## B. DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In October of 2014, the City of Detroit reached an agreement with Detroit Public Schools whereby \$11,600,000 in debt would be forgiven via the transfer of 77 surplus school properties to the Detroit Recreation Department. The majority of this debt is from electric bills. Rather than force repayment at the risk of further decreased funds to classroom programming, the Mayor's office elected to transfer these properties to the city's holdings.

This deal provides both opportunities and challenges for the Detroit Parks and Recreation and General Services Departments. In some parts of the city, poorly utilized parks can be relocated in favor of developing newer, larger, or better-situated parks in the same neighborhood on former DPS sites. In areas where park access is low, new parks can be created. Some DPS sites can also be used for economic development purposes that include a new park.

Funds have been identified to secure or demolish the remaining school buildings on some of these sites. However, a maintenance budget has not been allocated. Given the already tight fiscal circumstance of the city's General Services Department, maintenance of the existing parks remains a priority. For this reason, the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan only recommends the acquisition of 21 whole or partial Detroit Public School sites. The plan identifies four prioritization rankings for DPS sites to ensure that any acquisition will serve their intended purpose:

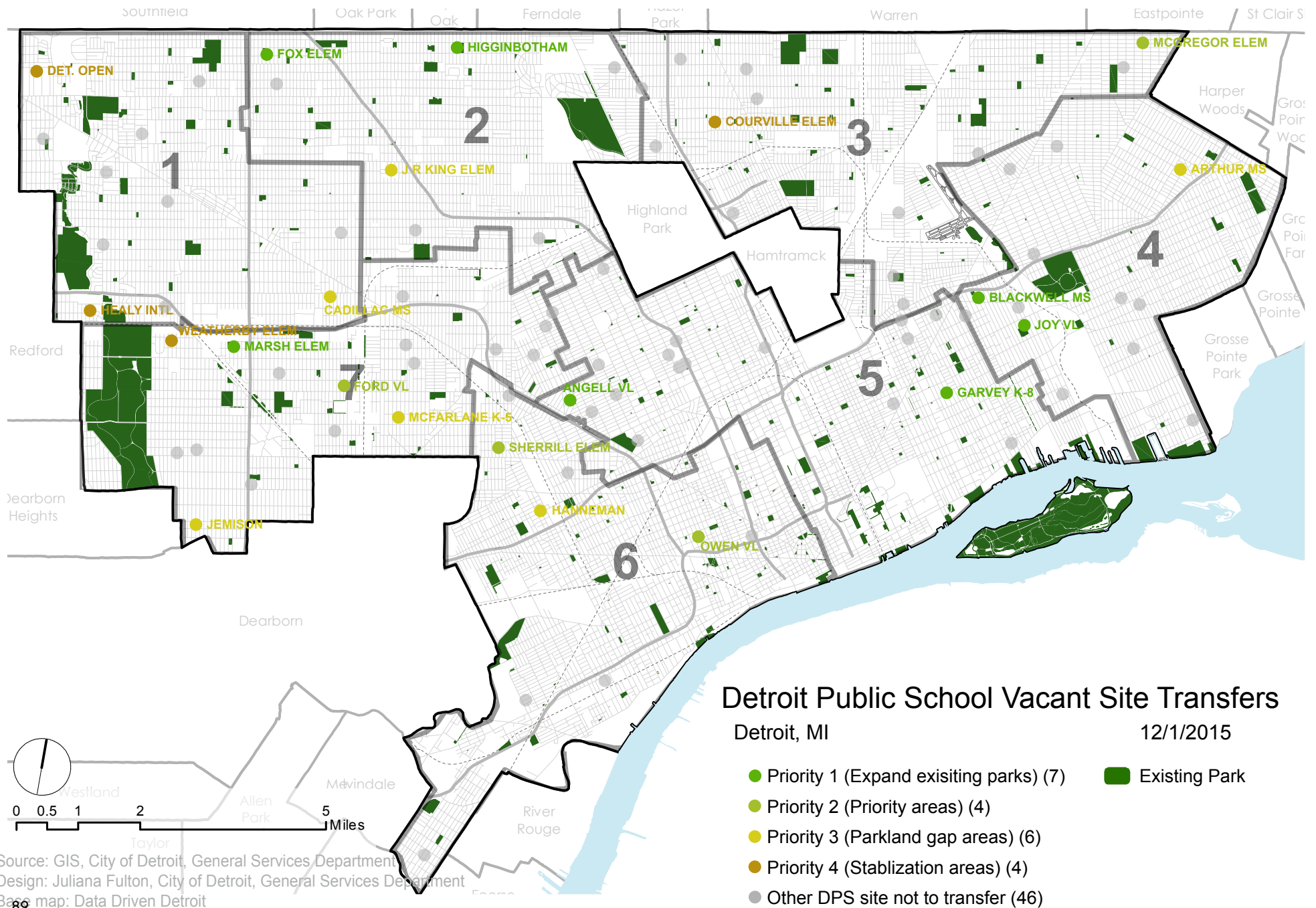
- Priority 1: DPS sites that are adjacent to existing parks and where the school has already been demolished, thereby add very little maintenance or improvement costs (8)
- Priority 2: DPS sites that are nearby existing parks but where schools have yet to be torn down or are proposed sites to relocate parks (4)
- Priority 3: DPS sites that fill gaps in the existing service area of parks (5)
- Priority 4: Additional DPS sites that residents use as parks and would be preferential for the retention of public land (4)

These categories are organized from highest to lowest priority and only constitute a fraction (27% or 21/77) of the overall DPS locations taken on by the City of Detroit. Figure 3.9 shows all sites that are desirable to the parks system.

# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES

District	Name	Address	Acres	Play Equipment	Context	Historic Eligibility	Structure	Park Gap Area	Metric Total	Next to a Park	Priority	Recommendation	Cost Estimate*
5	Angell Primary VL	8830-8858 Petoskey	0.89	No, not needed	Good	N	N	N	11.6	McShane	1	(A) EXPAND PARK	\$250,000
4	Blackwell Middle	5950 Cadillac	0.26	Yes, repair	Fair	N	N	N	11.2	Castador	1	(A) EXPAND PARK	\$175,000
2	Fox Elementary	17300 Fargo	0.20	Needed	Fair	N	N	N	12.7	Fargo-Oakfield	1	(A) EXPAND PARK	\$300,000
5	Garvey K-8	7701 Sylvester	4.00	Needed	Fair	N	N	N	13.6	Sylvester-Seyburn	1	(A) EXPAND PARK	\$300,000
2	Higginbotham	20119 Wisconsin	5.00	No, not needed	Good	Yes	Yes	N	18.6	Louis	1	(A)* EXPAND PARK*	\$800,000
4	Joy Vacant Land Site	4819 Fairview	10.74	No, not needed	Fair	N	N	N	9.5	Brewer	1	(A) EXPAND PARK	\$750,000
7	Marsh Elementary	18600 Wadsworth	3.65	Needed	Fair	N	N	N	13.9	Greenview-Wadsworth	1	(A) EXPAND PARK	\$300,000
7	Ford Vacant land	9663 Marlowe	3.89	Yes, repair	Good	N	N	N	10.8	N	2	(C) CREATE NEW PARK	\$350,000
3	McGregor Elementary	16206 Edmore Dr	1.83	Needed	Good	N	Yes	N	13.9	Bringard-Boulder	2	(A) EXPAND PARK	\$300,000
6	Owen VL	3033 15th Street	3.30	No, not needed	Good	N	N	N	12.6	15th-Butternut	2	(B) RELOCATE PARK	\$175,000
6	Sherrill Elementary	7300 Garden	8.30	Needed	Good	Yes	Yes	N	11.8	3 Relocated parks	2	(B) RELOCATE PARK	\$450,000
4	Arthur Middle	10125 King Richard	3.80	Yes, keep (x2)	Good	Unknown	Yes	Yes	14.2	N	3	(C) CREATE NEW PARK	\$300,000
1	Cadillac Middle	15125 Schoolcraft	2.80	Needed	Fair	N	Yes	Yes	11.8	N	3	(C) CREATE NEW PARK	\$300,000
6	Hanneman Elementary	6420 McGraw	1.80	Yes, repair	Fair	YES	Yes	Yes	13.6	N	3	(C)* CREATE NEW PARK*	\$175,000
2	J. R. King Elementary	16800 Cheyenne	4.40	Yes, repair	Good	YES	Yes	Yes	13.0	N	3	(C) CREATE NEW PARK	\$350,000
7	Jemison - OLD	6230 Plainview Ave	3.21	Needed	Good	Unknown	Yes	Yes	13.6	N	3	(C) CREATE NEW PARK	\$350,000
7	McFarlane PK-5	8900 Cheyenne	4.50	Needed	Good	Yes	Yes	Yes	12.8	N	3	(C) CREATE NEW PARK	\$400,000
3	Courville Elementary	18040 St. Aubin	5.10	Yes, keep (x2)	Good	Yes	Yes	N	11.9	N	4	(C)* CREATE NEW PARK*	\$300,000
1	Detroit Open	24601 Frisbee	3.77	Yes, keep (x2)	Good	N	Yes	N	13.6	N	4	(C) CREATE NEW PARK	\$350,000
1	Healy International	12901 Beaverland	4.20	Needed	Good	Unknown	Yes	N	13.0	N	4	(C) CREATE NEW PARK	\$400,000
7	Weatherby Elementary	20500 Wadsworth	3.00	Needed	Good	N	Yes	Yes	12.4	N	4	(C) CREATE NEW PARK	\$300,000

# FIGURE 3.9 DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES





One example of a recommended DPS site to be transferred to the be a city park. Marsh Elementary, along with 6 other priority 1 sites, is a vacant site (with the building demolished) next to an existing park.

## MARSH ELEMENTARY

DISTRICT: 7

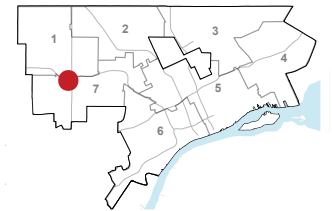
LOCATION: 118600 Wadsworth

ACRES: 1.17

CONDITION: Demolition completed (vacant land)

PLAY EQUIPMENT: Needed

## PRIORITY 1



# C. PARK GATEWAYS PROJECT

Parks serve as community stabilizers, critical spaces for diverse social interaction, and as a tool for economic development. Some parks in Detroit are bounded by strong neighborhoods on most sides but have one portion or side of the park in need of stabilization. The Park Gateway Project recommends a transfer of land ownership from the Detroit Land Bank Authority to DPRD in cases where vacant lots or blighted homes line a park so that they can be treated as additional entry ways into the park. In this way, the park extends into the neighborhood that may be struggling with vacancy, and serves as a stabilizing force to help decrease the possibility of further vacancy.

The adjacent Figure 3.10 shows blighted houses and lots on the west side of a park blocking neighborhood access to the park. This prototype demonstrates a strategy of accumulating a few strategic vacant lots on this street and creating new gateways into the park with minimal capital investment and minimal increased maintenance costs because the park is already maintained.

The Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan recognizes several locations that could benefit from this type of pilot. Among them are:

Balduck	Keidan
Stoepel No. 1	Dorais
4th & Charlotte	Callaghan
Higgins	Romanowski
Howarth	Optimist-Stout
Knudsen	St. Hedwig
Butzel	Belden-Santa Maria
Milan	Bieniek
Perrien	

# SAMPLE GATEWAY PARK

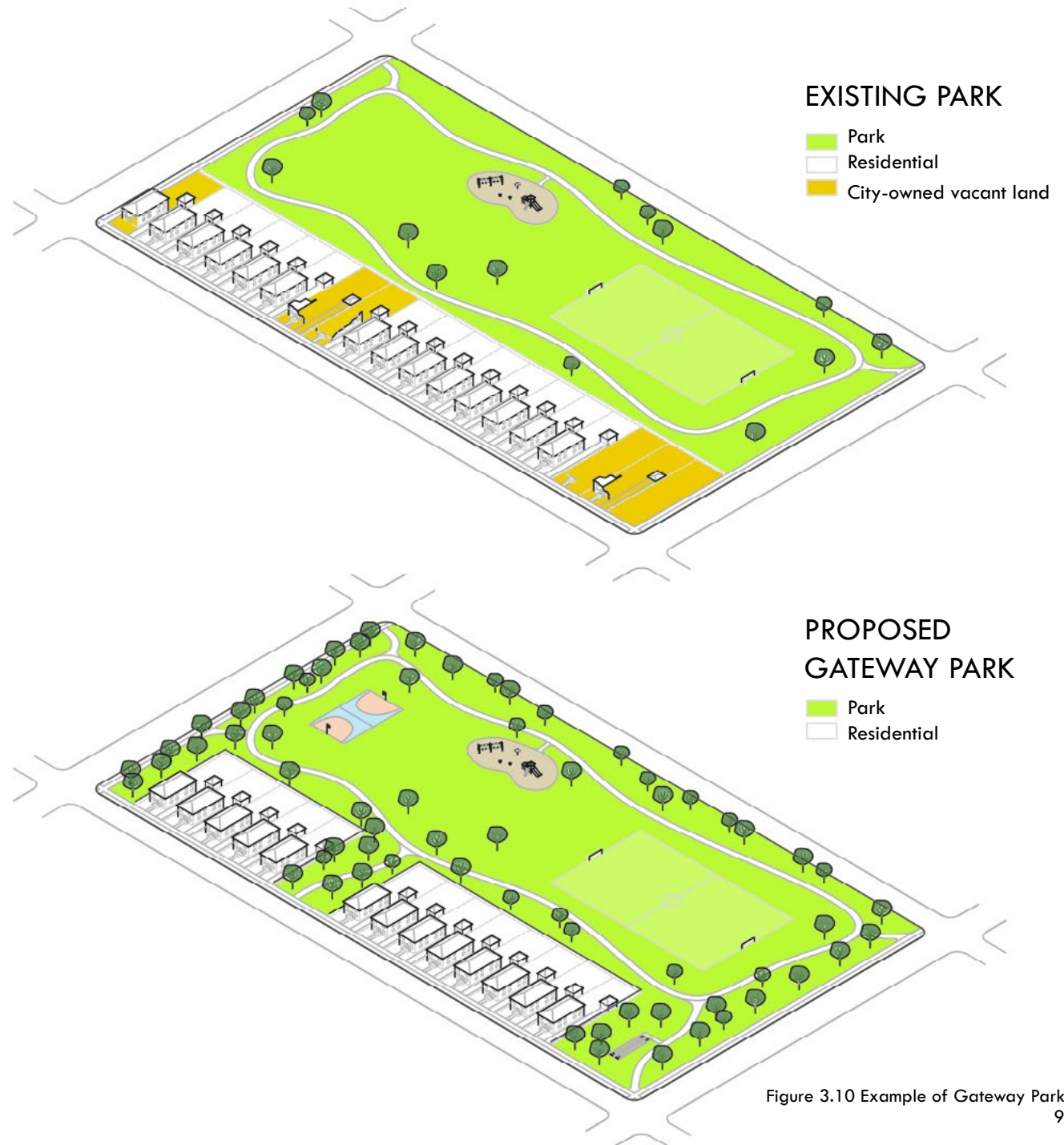
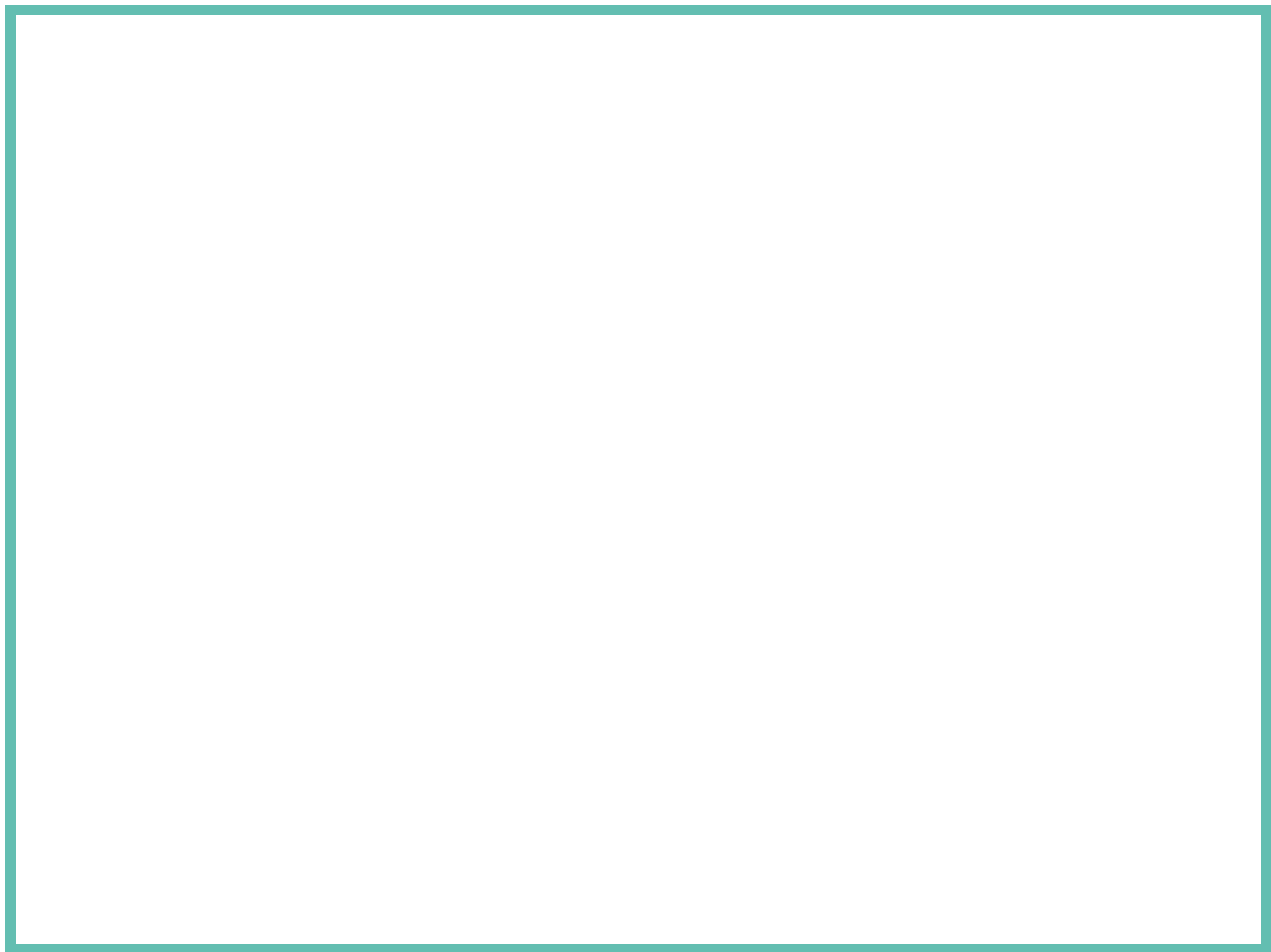


Figure 3.10 Example of Gateway Parks







Prairie Trail, Rouge Park

# COMMUNITY OPEN SPACES

In the past several years, the City of Detroit and a number of organizations such as Detroit Future City and the Community Development Advocates of Detroit have begun to see open space as an asset that has the potential to improve resident quality of life rather than a limitation. The General Services and Detroit Parks and Recreation Departments see this plan as a chance to reevaluate their roles as open space stewards. A limited number of city-owned parks no longer serve their intended recreational purpose because they are poorly located or are so small that residents no longer know these areas as parks. Maintenance of these spaces has become a tremendous burden for the General Services Department, who wishes to direct limited funds toward parks that are well-used in each neighborhood. The General Services Department sees the need to reduce maintenance costs for mowing and investing in under-utilized parks. The 2016 Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan therefore proposes that these lots be retained as public parkland but transition to new uses that can also benefit green infrastructure and public health goals for the city, while simultaneously increasing resident access to natural parkland. Some of these options include, but are not limited to, the following recommendations:

### **Forest Buffers**

Forest buffers are areas of the city where reforestation would be beneficial for the improvement of air quality and the creation of shaded green space for residents. The majority of areas where forest buffers are recommended are along highways or railroads, or where they are bordered by additional tree lots.

### **Intentional Meadows**

Intentional meadows may include pathways and benches but mostly enhance the surrounding area by the natural beauty of their wildflower growth. These meadows are recommended in areas not well used as spaces for play, but where a meadow would be an improvement from the current condition of the space.

### **Low Maintenance Lots**

These lots were determined on a case-by-case basis where GSD did not want to impact the current use and maintenance of the park but where GSD maintenance budget is best used elsewhere. For example, if a church maintains a park that is poorly located for use, GSD does not want to get in the way of continued maintenance by that church.

### **Urban Agriculture**

Urban Agriculture offers the opportunity to locate under-utilized parks between 1-3 acres in size and partner with established agricultural organizations across the city to turn portions or all of the site into farming opportunities. This type of partnership will at first be offered as a pilot in two parks and would offer a 10-year license opportunity for use of the land with public access requirements attached to it.

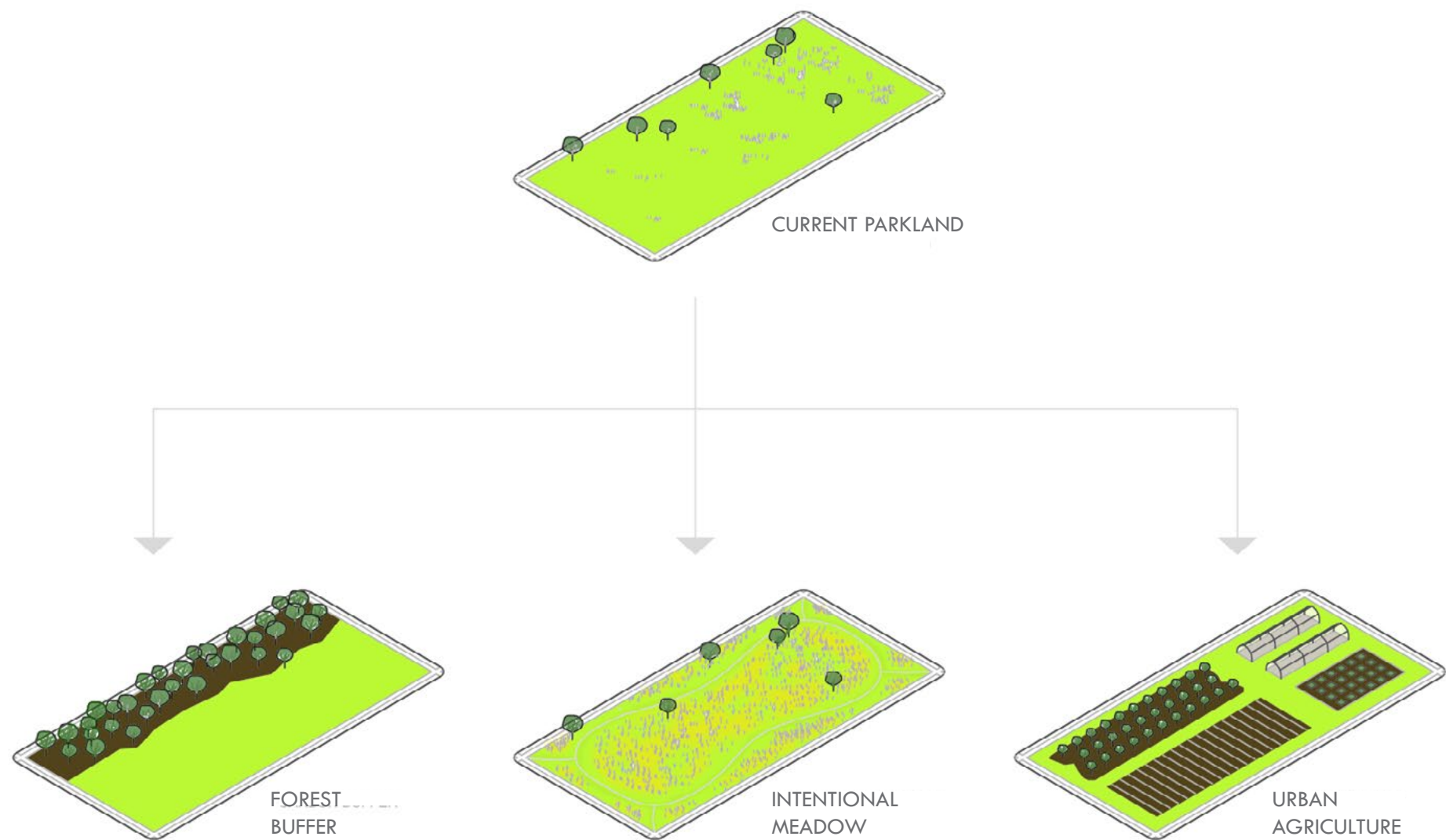


Figure 3.11 Parks that will no longer have traditional recreational uses but will be open spaces for green infrastructure with public benefit

While none of these uses are set in stone and must go through a public approval process, the Community Open Spaces classification allows for more flexibility in the types of future uses for these parks. Three themes are critical to the success of the COS program:

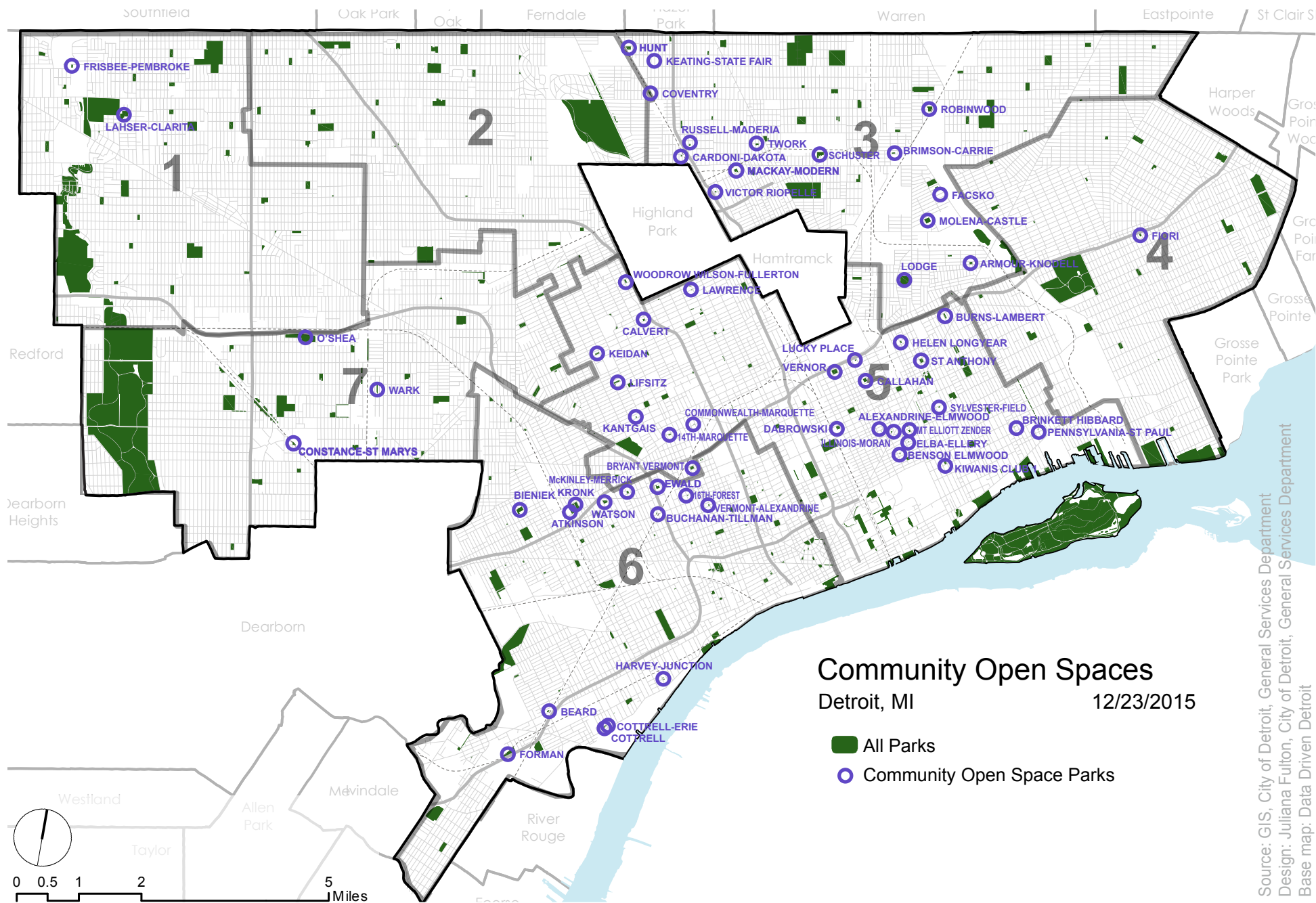
- the COSs will remain as public land under city ownership
- they will be well-maintained, whether by GSD or preferably by a partner organization (similar to the operation of the Adopt-A-Park program)
- they are recognizable as intentional open spaces (and not seen as “left behind” lots)

As part of the planning process, the General Services Department surveyed every park on this list to verify the determination that it would better serve residents without traditional park features. These parks were additionally vetted by all District Managers to make sure there was not an additional use that GSD and DPRD did not see during staff research and surveys. These uses are only recommendations. During the phase of public outreach, residents are encouraged to interact with the General Services Department with their reactions to these recommendations.

Like most open lots around Detroit, the challenge of Community Open Spaces is that the sites are fragmented and cannot be bundled for a more significant pathway of open space unless paired with broader initiatives as the City continues its Open Space planning process. In the interim, this plan recommends working with community resources such as the Greening of Detroit’s Vacant Land Treatment Guide ([http://detroitagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/Treatment-Guides\\_All\\_web.pdf](http://detroitagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/Treatment-Guides_All_web.pdf)) or Detroit Future City’s Field Guide ([www.dfc-lots.com](http://www.dfc-lots.com)) to develop a collaborative neighborhood-driven process for these open space opportunities. Residents may wish to see one of the recommendations listed above or something else entirely that can be found in the Vacant Land Treatment Guide or Field Guide and meets the overall needs of the neighborhood. Community members may also wish to come up with something entirely new that can be brought to the attention of the Landscape Design Unit within GSD.



FIGURE 3.12 COMMUNITY OPEN SPACES





# COMMUNITY OPEN SPACES METRICS (1-27)

District	Park	Address	Acres	Staff Expertise	Economic Activity (Building Permits)	Population Density (2013)	Population Change (2000 - 2010)	Public Priority	Youth Population	Senior Population	Greenway Proximity	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Adopted / Leased	Deed Restrictions	Recommendation
5	14th-Marquette	6093 14th	0.40	2	2	1.25	2	0	2	2	1	8.0	N			Meadow
6	16th-Forest	4498 16th	0.16	1	1	1.25	4	0	3	2	0	8.7	N			Meadow
5	Alexandrine-Elmwood	3150 E. Alexandrine	0.08	1	1	1.25	2	0	1	1	0	5.0	N			Forest Buffer
3	Armour-Knodell	9300 Armour	0.86	3	1	1.25	2	5	1	2	0	10.0	N			Meadow
6	Atkinson	5301 Junction	4.30	1	1	1.25	2	0	2	1	0	6.0	N			Meadow
6	Beard	8902 W. Fort	0.33	2	1	1.25	3	0	5	2	0	10.7	N		Y	Forest Buffer
5	Benson-Elmwood	3340 Benson	0.22	1	2	2.5	2	0	2	1	0	7.9	N			Low-maintenance
6	Bieniek	5981 Martin	3.51	1	2	2.5	2	0	5	2	0	11.7	N			Agriculture
3	Brimson-Carrie	7127 Brimson	0.57	1	1	1.25	2	0	3	2	0	7.9	Y	Y		Agriculture
5	Brinkett-Hibbard	2156 Hibbard	0.16	1	2	1.25	2	0	2	1	3	7.1	N			Meadow
5	Bryant-Vermont	5170 Vermont	0.37	1	1	1.25	3	0	4	2	0	9.3	N			Meadow
6	Buchanan-Tillman	3314 Buchanan	0.17	1	1	1.25	2	0	1	1	0	5.0	N			Forest Buffer
5	Burns-Lambert	5952 Burns	1.07	1	2	3.75	2	0	2	1	0	9.4	N			Low-maintenance
5	Callahan	3356 E. Ferry	2.19	3	1	1.25	2	0	1	1	1	6.2	N			Meadow
3	Cardoni-Dakota	17235 Cardoni	0.28	1	1	1.25	2	0	1	1	1	5.3	Y	Y		Forest Buffer
5	Commonwealth-Marquette	6101 Commonwealth	0.11	1	2	1.25	2	0	2	1	3	7.1	N	Y		Meadow
7	Constance-St. Marys	8324 St. Marys	0.95	2	2	1.25	4	0	2	1	0	7.6	N		Y	Ag/Buffer
6	Cottrell	800 Cottrell	0.49	1	1	1.25	2	0	3	1	0	7.0	N			Forest Buffer
6	Cottrell-Erie	749 Cottrell	0.08	1	1	1.25	2	0	3	1	0	7.0	N	Y		Low-maintenance
3	Coventry	19227 Coventry	0.88	2	1	1.25	1	0	3	2	0	8.0	N		Y	Forest Buffer
5	Dabrowski	4671 St. Aubin	1.61	1	1	1.25	1	0	1	1	5	5.9	N			Agriculture
5	Elba-Ellery	3639 Elba	0.10	1	2	1.25	2	0	2	1	0	6.4	N			Low-maintenance
6	Ewald	5046 Ewald	1.20	1	1	1.25	4	0	3	2	0	8.7	N			Ag/Buffer
3	Facsko	8415 Dubay	0.46	1	3	1.25	1	0	2	1	1	6.6	N			Agriculture
4	Fiori	5939 Fiori	0.51	1	2	2.5	2	0	5	2	0	11.7	N	Y		Meadow
6	Forman	150 Forman	6.33	2	1	1.25	2	0	3	1	0	7.4	N			Low-maintenance
1	Frisbee-Pembroke	23060 Frisbee	0.72	1	2	3.75	3	0	2	2	0	10.7	N			Forest Buffer
6	Harvey-Junction	337 Junction	0.38	1	1	1.25	2	0	2	1	0	6.0	N	Y		Meadow

# COMMUNITY OPEN SPACES METRICS (28-56)

District	Park	Address	Acres	Staff Expertise	Economic Activity (Building Permits)	Population Density (2013)	Population Change (2000 - 2010)	Public Priority	Youth Population	Senior Population	Greenway Proximity	Metric Total	Improved Since 2006	Adopted / Leased	Deed Restrictions	Recommendation
5	Helen-Longyear	5938 Helen	0.41	1	1	1.25	2	0	1	1	1	5.3	N			Meadow
3	Hunt	520 Winchester	2.24	3	1	1.25	1	0	3	2	1	8.8	N			Ag/Buffer
5	Illinois-Moran	2395 Illinois	0.19	1	1	1.25	2	0	1	1	2	5.5	N			Low-maintenance
5	Kantgias	2660 Hogarth	0.23	1	2	2.5	2	0	3	2	1	10.0	N	Y		Low-maintenance
3	Keating-State Fair Lot	5938 Helen	0.21	2	1	1.25	1	0	3	2	2	8.5	N			Low-maintenance
5	Keidan	2900 Rochester	0.83	3	2	2.5	3	0	2	1	0	9.2	N			Meadow
5	Kiwanis Club No. 1	6531 Kercheval	0.93	1	1	1.25	2	2	2	1	1	7.2	N			Agriculture
6	Kronk	5555 McGraw	3.46	1	1	1.25	2	0	2	1	0	6.0	N			Meadow
1	Lahser-Clarita	18483 Burgess	3.59	2	2	2.5	2	0	3	2	0	10.3	Y	Y		Meadow
5	Lawrence	11491 Woodward	0.11	2	2	2.5	2	0	2	1	0	8.3	N		Y	Low-maintenance
5	Lifsitz	2670 Gladstone	1.46	1	3	3.75	2	0	2	2	0	10.7	N			Low-maintenance
3	Lodge	8901 Van Dyke	12.72	1	1	1.25	1	2	4	2	0	9.5	N			Low-maintenance
5	Lucky Place	3340 E. Edsel Ford	0.26	1	1	1.25	2	0	1	1	1	5.3	N	Y		Forest Buffer
3	Mackay-Modern	14275 Mackay	1.03	1	1	1.25	1	0	1	1	0	4.7	N			Forest Buffer
6	McKinley-Merrick	5200 McKinley	0.63	1	1	1.25	2	0	1	1	1	5.3	N			Meadow
3	Molena-Castle	8358 Madola	3.08	1	1	1.25	1	0	2	1	0	5.6	N			Agriculture
5	Mt. Elliott-Zender	3741 Mt. Elliott	0.22	1	1	1.25	2	0	2	1	0	6.0	N			Meadow
7	O'Shea	15810 Capitol	19.77	1	1	1.25	2	5	2	1	0	9.0	N			Meadow
5	Pennsylvania-St. Paul	1536 Pennsylvania	0.13	1	2	2.5	2	0	3	1	2	9.3	N	Y		Low-maintenance
3	Robinwood	8276 E. Hollywood	2.45	2	2	2.5	3	0	3	3	0	11.6	N			Agriculture
3	Russell-Maderia	17542 Russell	0.43	1	1	1.25	2	0	3	2	0	7.9	N			Meadow
3	Schuster	17220 Conley	3.36	1	1	2.5	2	0	2	1	0	7.5	N	Y		Agriculture
5	Sylvester-Field	3751 Field	0.31	1	2	1.25	2	0	2	2	3	8.0	N			Meadow
5	Vernor	5947 Grandy	3.26	1	1	1.25	1	0	1	1	1	4.9	N	Y		Low-maintenance
3	Victor-Riopelle	1725 Victor	0.30	1	1	1.25	1	0	1	1	0	4.7	N	Y		Forest Buffer
7	Wark	9510 Decatur	0.98	2	2	3.75	2	0	3	2	0	11.8	N		Y	Low-maintenance
6	Watson	5159 Scotten	1.59	4	1	2.5	2	0	5	3	1	14.0	N			Agriculture
5	Woodrow Wilson-Fullerton	12500 Woodrow Wilson	0.74	1	1	1.25	2	0	2	1	0	6.0	N			Agriculture



## IV: IMPLEMENTATION GOALS



Community meeting, Butzel Family Recreation Center

## A. CARRYING OUT THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

The most critical document for the implementation of this Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan is the Capital Improvements Priorities spreadsheet. Found in full in Appendix A of this plan, the CIP for parks and recreation centers includes the list of priorities in order and by phases that incorporates all neighborhood stabilization strategies and programs as part of the broader budget.

The General Services and Detroit Parks and Recreation Departments both have a strong reputation across the city as departments that listen to the concerns of residents. Because of this, parks chosen for special grants or capital dollars have been chosen on the knowledge of staff expertise rather than the 2006 Strategic Master Plan. The plan to this plan has worked to ensure that the goals of community members should match the goals of the plan itself. Certainly, the Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan can be flexible in order to accommodate areas where clear need was unforeseen at the time of this project. However, this should be a rare exception rather than the rule. Residents and local stakeholders will continue to play an important role in influencing the conditions and improvements of their local parks and recreation centers. However, the time at which these parks and recreation centers come up for improvement should be clear to residents and staff alike, helping everyone to understand why a certain park is being prioritized over another at the time being.

## B. COMMUNICATION AND GOVERNANCE

This plan was written in the midst of several important planning processes across Detroit. The City's Planning and Development Department is working to update the Master Plan of Policies. Detroit Future City continues to develop implementation projects on the basis of its Strategic Framework and Community Development Advocates of Detroit (CDAD) has worked closely with several neighborhood or district-level groups to develop grassroots recommendations for future land use. While the scope of this improvement plan does not address land-use recommendations, our work collaborates with the efforts of these entities in attempts to strengthen the role of parks in a broader network of open space.

Moving forward, one of the most critical needs of the General Services and Detroit Parks and Recreation Departments is continual and open communication between these groups and other initiatives across the city to ensure that there is one clear governance structure and process for best utilizing our parks, both as they relate to broader open space projects and also as they overlap with economic development initiatives.



## C. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

As the initiatives of the General Services and Parks and Recreation Departments continue to grow and meet the needs of Detroit's residents, this plan recommends that GSD and DPRD become more proactive in seeking funding for the implementation of this plan. Currently, partnerships with the City exist on a site-by-site basis. This plan can be used as a tool to search for funding opportunities that align with the plan's stated implementation goals.

The After-school partnership with Detroit Public Schools is one way of addressing the gaps between recreation centers through youth programming at schools. Other programming strategies will be necessary to fill those gaps for adults and seniors. Should funding be identified in the future, DPRD and GSD can work to transition from programmatic solutions to brick and mortar options in districts four and seven where recreation center gaps exist. In particular, recreation in district 4 should be connected with Rouge Park to bring even more residents to Detroit's largest park.

GSD and DPRD should also seek funding from federal, state, and local departments of transportation to ensure that the parks and recreation centers are accessible nodes of connection across Detroit by bus, bike and on foot.

## D. PRIORITIZING NATURAL PARKLAND

Detroit's parkland is almost entirely programmed with play equipment and amenities. When compared to cities with natural landscapes, the Trust for Public Land ranks Detroit as third most programmed for play as compared to natural landscapes. As the Goals and Community Open Spaces sections of this plan suggest, the retention of parkland that shifts towards more natural land conservation and passive space options will mean increased quality of life for residents as well as decreased maintenance costs over time for the General Services and DPRD departments. The Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan recommends continually amending the existing planning typologies to incorporate options for the benefit of green infrastructure and climate change concerns. Residents need a broader array of options for how to think about the term "park improvements." Adding green infrastructure options to the existing typologies in this plan was just one way to do this.

Throughout the planning process, the General Services and Detroit Parks and Recreation Departments have partnered with existing efforts citywide to combat climate change through the parks, aid in stormwater management, enhance connectivity across open spaces, and manage vacant lots. The Parks and Recreation Improvement Plan recommends working with the numerous existing community tools for vacant lot management to offer new types of land-uses in portions of Detroit's parks or in areas classified as Community Open Spaces.

## E. PROGRAMMING AND OPEN DATA

While an exhaustive survey of all programming was beyond the scope of the improvement plan, this plan recognizes the need to think collaboratively with all programming processes in the Detroit Parks and Recreation Department to ensure success of Detroit's park system. To that end, the plan offers a search-able database of all park amenities as they currently exist. That way, each time a new park comes up for improvements in the CIP it can be evaluated on the basis of existing amenities nearby. This will help ensure there is not an overlap of amenities in a specific area. Appendix A also includes a survey carried out by Landscape Design Unit staff prior to gathering community input for a specific park improvement. The survey form is a formalized version of a process that already exists among staff to analyze nearby context in relation to other parks and within the park itself. This information is then paired with information regarding specific age groups that live in close proximity to the park and general amenity choices that this age group might prefer on the basis of national recreation standards.

The General Services and Detroit Parks and Recreation Departments are also working with the City of Detroit Office of Innovation and Technology to develop strategies for increased education about the park system and what residents have in their neighborhoods to help increase usage. Peer-reviewed research argues that a lack of scheduled organized activities in parks is directly related to a 39% decline in park usage.<sup>1</sup> While these exact figures vary from city to city and park to park,<sup>1</sup> their findings are replicated in other studies nationwide and suggest the importance of programming to ensure Detroit's many park assets are utilized.<sup>2</sup> Because of staffing shortages, currently DPRD can only staff 4 activity leaders to be stationed at each recreation center, meaning very little programming City-led happens in the parks themselves.

The implementation of this plan depends on extensive community outreach to connect existing local partners and organizations with amenities that they can use for their programming. The City of Detroit programming database could aid in helping make this information more accessible to residents by including not only City-led programs but also community-led programs search-able by neighborhood and/or park. As the City of Detroit website becomes a more reliable source of information for residents, DPRD staff will work together with DOIT to provide a portal into programming schedules sorted by park as well as activity.

# PARK AMENITIES & CONDITION

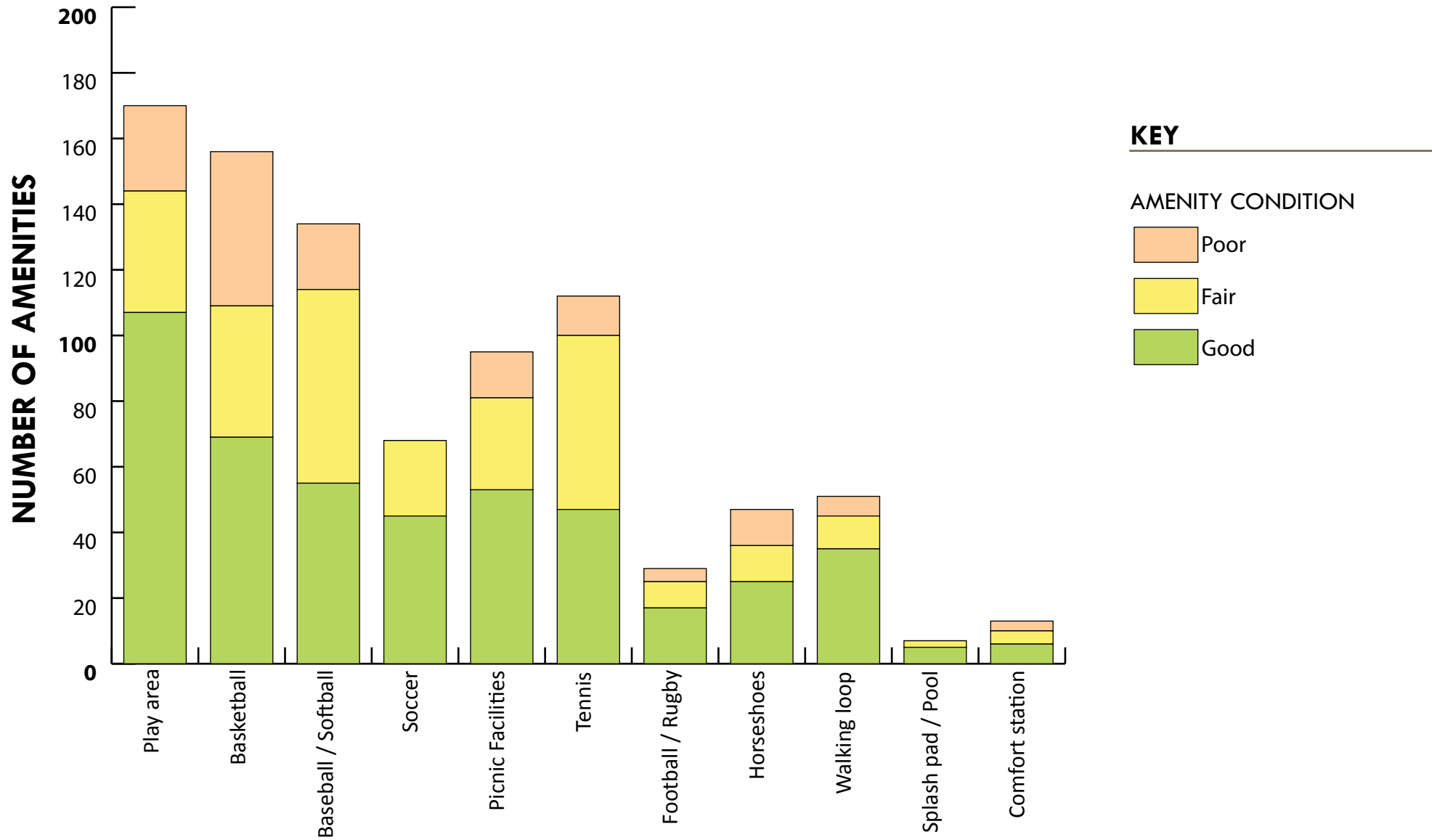
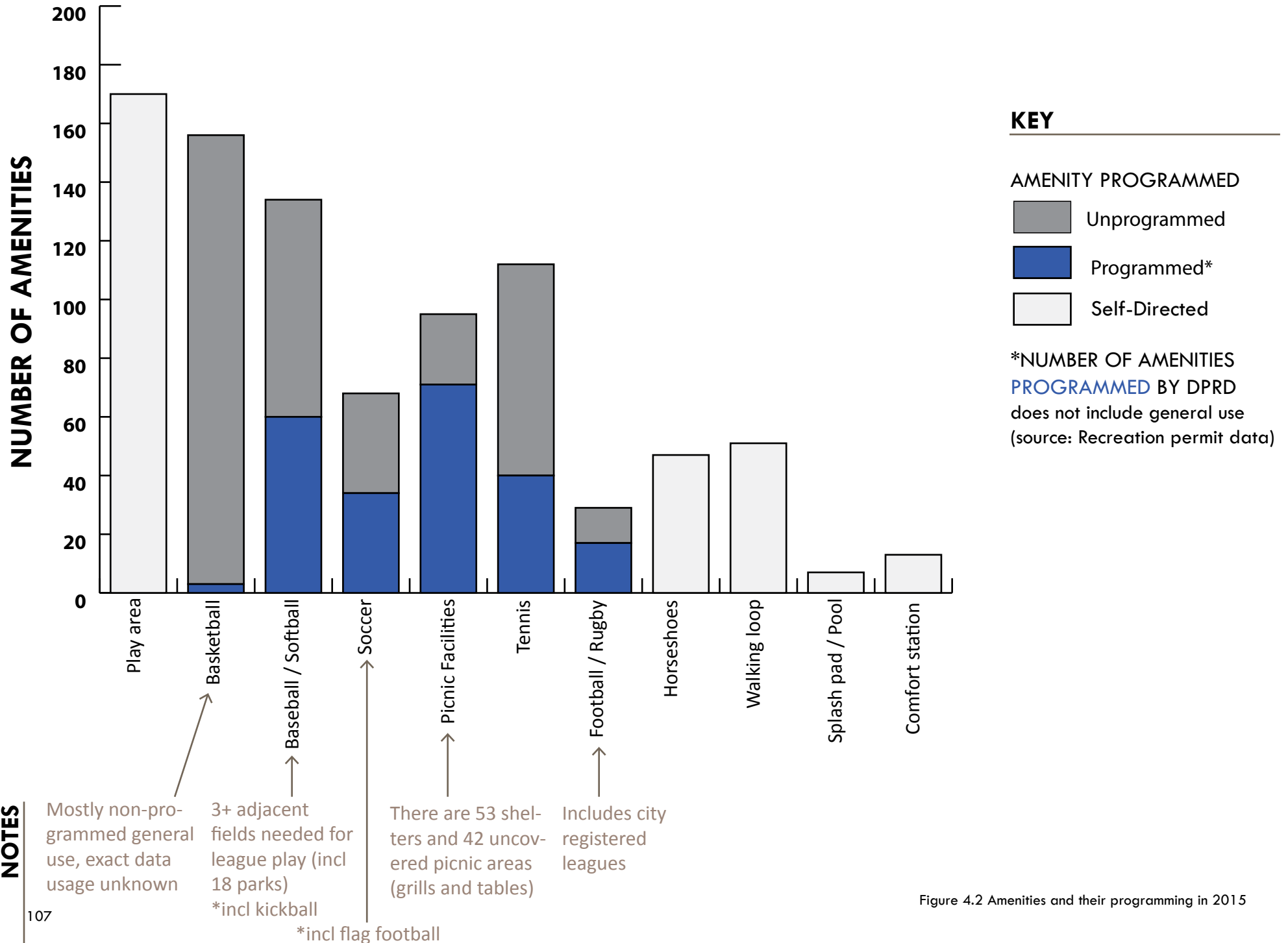


Figure 4.1 The number of park amenities and their condition citywide in 2015

# PARK AMENITIES & PROGRAMMING



## New Programming Insights

Trends in new types of programming and resources that residents enjoy in their parks can be beneficial for creating more widely used parks. The following are a limited set of trends not widely available across the city but that this plan recommends implementing on a trial basis upon further community input.

### *Community Gardens:*

Community gardens increasingly are being considered as recreational park amenities in the same way that baseball diamonds or swings long have been. They provide spaces for educational opportunities, intergenerational social interaction, physical activity, and healthy food access. These types of spaces also cultivate a commitment to land that encourages broader neighborhood investment by those living around the park.

Currently, five parks in Detroit have community gardens: Calimera, Farwell, Palmer, Stanton, and Romanowski. The Detroit Parks and Recreation Department could consider partnering with an established food access organization to create a pilot community garden program in the parks. These programs would be initiated by community members championing the project, and would work similar to the current Adopt-A-Park system.

### *Concessions:*

Offering food amenities in parks draws people into the parks and increases their usage. Concessions also allow people to enjoy the parks for extended periods of time. Food options in key Detroit parks would be a considerable asset. There are many options for concessions beyond the traditional hot dog stand:

Food trucks are mobile and are becoming increasingly popular in cities throughout the country, requiring little added infrastructure. Examples of parks that have the capacity for several food trucks in a designated concessions area are Rouge Park, Patton Park, and Clark Park.

In keeping with its healthy parks initiatives, the City can encourage healthy food as well as traditional concessions at the parks, through requirements of food service providers. Concessions can provide added revenue to help fund park improvements while creating more picnic facilities and amenities to enjoy by visitors to the park. To move forward with creating a concessions plan, a feasibility study must be conducted at each potential location, with input from the community and the park group or organization. It is important to have a flexible framework, since it is likely that each park will have its own set of needs and potential. Variety also provides more options to residents and visitors, increasing the attraction and enjoyment of the parks.

### *Dog Parks:*

The popularity of fenced in sites where dog-owners can let their pets off the leash to run free has grown in the last several years from a trend into a strongly desired amenity. The Trust for Public Land, who collects annual statistics on parks nationwide, report that dog park prevalence has grown 20% in the past five years (6% between 2014 and 2015).<sup>3</sup> Currently, three city-owned dog parks exist at Balduck Park, Maccomb (adjacent to Roosevelt Park), and off of Cass Avenue in Midtown. Other sites are often informally used as dog parks but not officially designated as such, including the Old Tiger Stadium site and several locations across the North End. As popularity for dog parks continues to increase, the Landscape Design Unit of General Services should work with residents to better understand their needs for dog parks. A report produced by the University of California- Davis School of Veterinary Medicine suggests that dog parks are increasingly ranked by local users as successful the larger they are in size, even in parks under three acres.<sup>4</sup> This plan recommends the identification of one lot to be designated as a dog park that is at least 5 acres in size within the greater downtown area.





## DETROIT DOG PARKS SIZE COMPARISON

\* sizes approximate

Figure 4.3 Existing dog parks in Detroit and their size. Note: not all dog parks are managed by the City of Detroit.

## F. UNIFORM ACCESS AND VISIBILITY

Often Detroit residents do not know when a park is city, county, or state-owned or whether a company or community partner maintains a site. This plan recommends two strategies to generate visual uniformity across parks that serve diverse purposes in the community.

### **Multi-Modal Park Access**

Connectivity between parks is critical to the success of the parks and recreation centers as a system. Moving forward, the Landscape Design Unit should consider bike infrastructure/ parking in every park and also bike hubs in regional parks (especially Rouge, Patton, Chandler, Palmer, and Roosevelt). In these parks, offering stations for bike repair and the potential for bike rentals is critical to ensure that these hubs are well-utilized across the city and offer high quality access by bike for those without automobile access.

Regional parks also often have major roads transecting them. This plan recommends that all motor vehicle roads that run through parks be narrowed through implementing separate bike lanes as well as clear pedestrian crossings to create access to the park. The adjacent image demonstrates rough plans for what this type of implementation could look like. Further evaluation, particularly in collaboration with DDOT, is necessary.

### **Location**

This plan recommends moving away from parks that are located mid-block in an area of low visibility and relocating these parks to areas that are more accessible to the entire neighborhood. While existing parks will remain in their current locations, future parks acquisition should avoid the creation of pocket parks that are difficult to maintain and access in favor of larger lots that occupy entire blocks or are on a corner lot.

### **Fencing**

Fencing is expensive and is frequently vandalized and/or removed in Detroit's parks. Detroit GSD and DPRD face the additional

challenge of motorists frequently driving their cars through parkland. As parks are evaluated for improvements in the Capitol Improvements process or as part of the neighborhood stabilization program, specific attention would be paid to the necessity of fences. Unless a park is located in an area of high traffic or particular circumstances where fencing is necessary for safety, this plan recommends the discarding of fences in parks. To discourage motorists, bollards or boulders should be put in place to serve the same purpose. When possible, bollards that also have bike parking would be an ideal combination of multiple goals. The Landscape Design Unit may wish to also encourage certain types of natural boundaries for the parks such as trees and bioswales.

### **Signage**

The look of signage in Detroit's parks varies according to entities responsible for park improvements as well as when those improvements were made. As the City begins to think more strategically about visual branding, the DPRD and GSD need to work closely with the Mayor's office to ensure that park signage is in keeping with this visual strategy.



## BRINGING ROAD DIETS TO REGIONAL PARKS

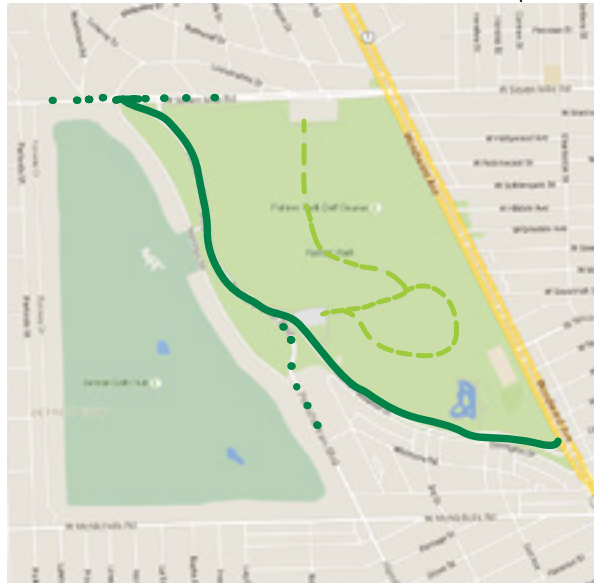
### ROUGE PARK

3.4 mile road diet route  
1.5 mile mountain bike loop



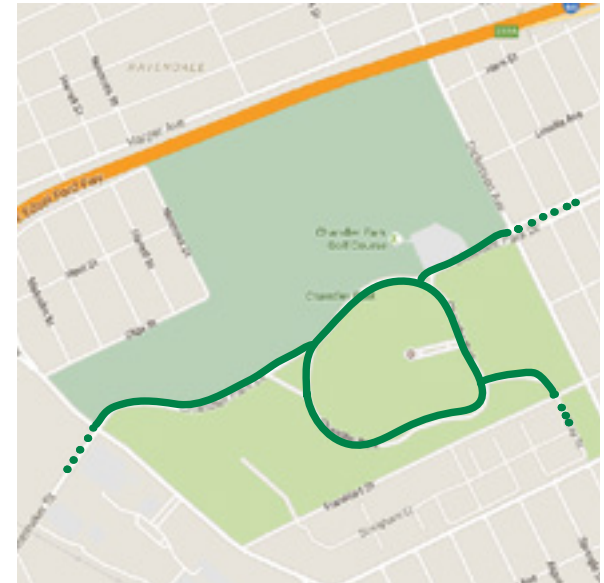
### PALMER PARK

1.6 mile road diet route  
1.3 mile non-motorized path

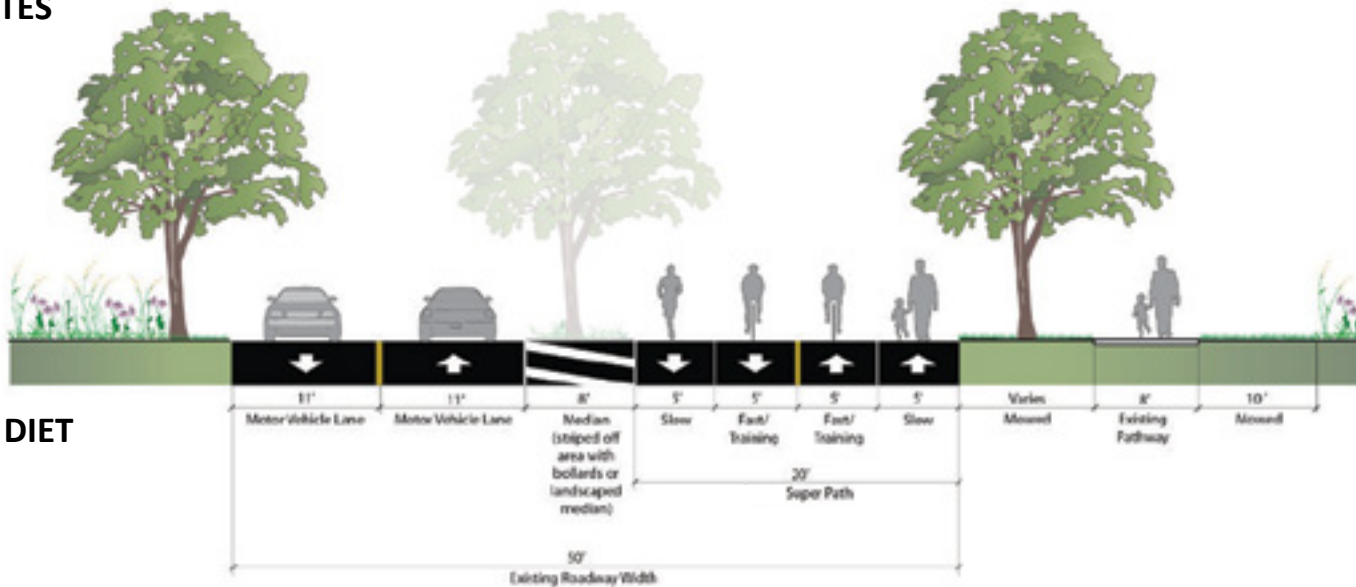


### CHANDLER PARK

1.7 mile road diet route



### POTENTIAL ROUTES



### EXAMPLE ROAD DIET

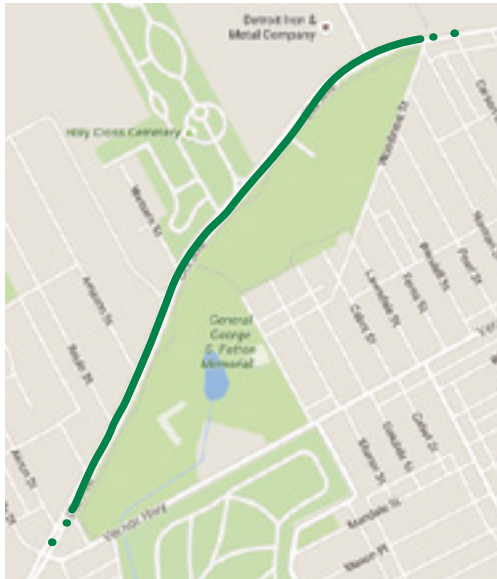
The Greenway Collaborative, Inc.  
[www.greenwaycollab.com](http://www.greenwaycollab.com)



## BRINGING ROAD DIETS TO REGIONAL PARKS

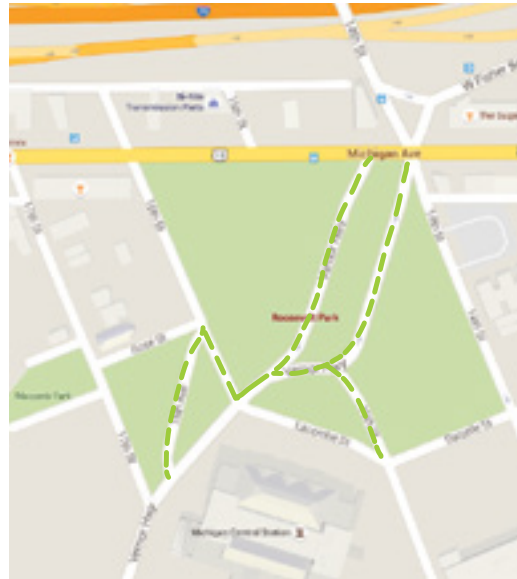
### PATTON PARK

1.0 mile road diet route



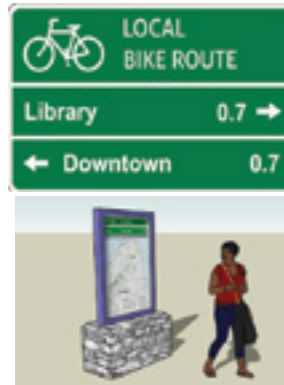
### ROOSEVELT PARK

0.4 mile non-motorized path



\* These routes are samples of ways to strengthen our regional parks, additional technical expertise is necessary before determining exact routes.

### POTENTIAL ROUTES



### EXAMPLE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Greenway Collaborative, Inc.  
www.greenwaycollab.com

## SOURCES

1. Cohen, Deborah, et.al. 2009. "Effects of Park Improvements on Park Use and Physical Activity Policy and Programming Implications." American Journal of Preventative Medicine 37(6) 475-486.
2. Godbey, Geoffrey and Andrew Mowen. 2010. The Benefits of Physical Activity Provided by Park and Recreation Services: The Scientific Evidence. National Recreation and Park Association.
3. <https://www.tpl.org/media-room/dog-parks-lead-growth-us-city-parks>
4. [http://www.vmt.h.ucdavis.edu/home/beh/Dog\\_Park/Dog\\_Park\\_Management\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.vmt.h.ucdavis.edu/home/beh/Dog_Park/Dog_Park_Management_Guidelines.pdf)

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please submit all comments, questions, and feedback by following out a short questionnaire at :  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1i9Nu7Zoo7A7viprXGkDBi7bgMGcNea\\_h7YWkO9N67N0/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1i9Nu7Zoo7A7viprXGkDBi7bgMGcNea_h7YWkO9N67N0/viewform?c=0&w=1)

You may also contact Meagan Elliott at [elliottm@detroitmi.gov](mailto:elliottm@detroitmi.gov) or by calling the General Services Department, Landscape Design Unit at 313-628-0900.

GSD AND DPRD will be holding citywide public meetings. Ask you district manager for more details.